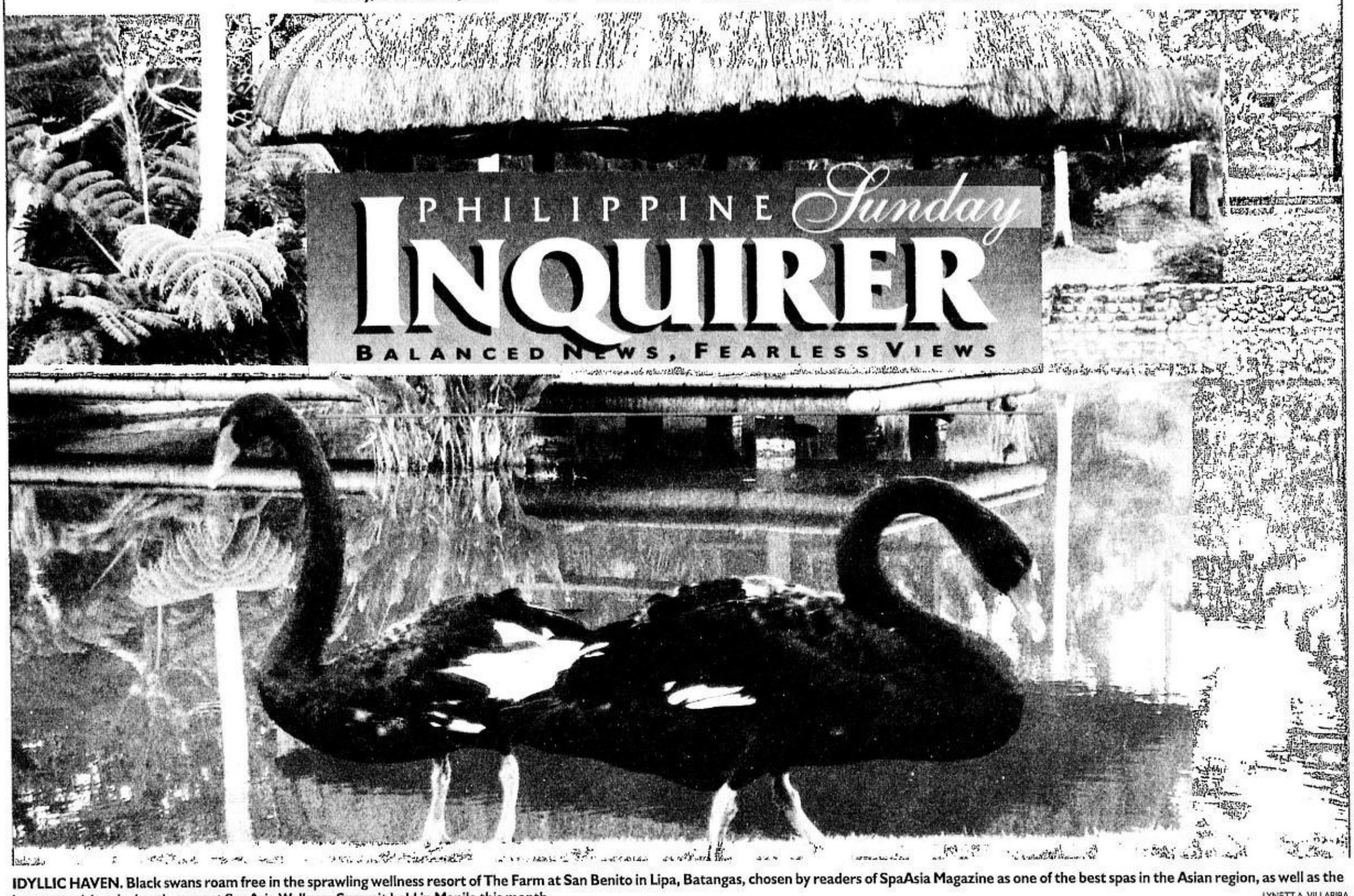
Sunday, October 14, 2007 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 308 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



IDYLLIC HAVEN. Black swans roam free in the sprawling wellness resort of The Farm at San Benito in Lipa, Batangas, chosen by readers of SpaAsia Magazine as one of the best spas in the Asian region, as well as the best spa cuisine during the recent SpaAsia Wellness Summit held in Manila this month. LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Gov bares Palace payoff

Saying he can't lie, Fr. Ed admits taking ₱500,000

NOT ONLY ADMINISTRATION CONGRESSMEN BUT ALSO at least one local government executive were given money after attending separate meetings with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on Thursday.

Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, a Catholic priest, yesterday said a Palace staff member dressed in a *barong tagalog* handed him a brown paper gift bag containing P500,000 as he was walking toward his car.

Panlilio said the bag, which had a handle, was stuffed with crisp P1,000 bills in five bundles, each amounting to P100,000.

He said the man told him he could use the money to help in the barangay elections, and that he accepted it after being told that he could also use it for "barangay projects."

Panlilio agreed to confirm that money had changed hands after the meeting "because as a priest and a public officer, I should not lie."

"I believe that since the money came from Malacañang, I also believe it is public money. So I should be accountable for it and transparent about it," he said.

The President called the meeting with around 200 officers and members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philip-

GOV BARES/ A6

Bagful of bills is 1st big test of Among Ed's values

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Catholic priest who won the governorship of Pampanga on a platform of good and moral leadership has been confronted with what he calls the "first test" of his religious values and character as a public official.

It happened right on the grounds of Malacañang on Thursday.

According to Panlilio, a male Palace staff member in his 40s handed him a brown paper gift bag containing P500,000 in crisp P1,000 bills.

Panlilio was approached immediately after a meeting of governors and mayors with President Macapagal-Arroyo on "development projects in the countryside."

"He told me his name but I cannot recall it. He was respectful to me," said Panlilio who does not believe he

BAGFUL / A6

Read-Along: Children learn about Christian, Muslim friends

By Kate V. Pedroso
Inquirer Research

SIX SPECIAL CHILDREN JOINED YESterday's INQUIRER Read-Along session which featured stories about a Christian-Muslim friendship, two men who conquered an earthquake and a princess, and the adventures of three goats.

Yesterday's session, the 11th since it

READ-ALONG/ A7

Stock market pays for experts, amateurs

By Alcuin Papa
and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PROFITS THEY MAKE IN THE stock market on a weekly or even daily basis can easily equal, if not rival, most monthly salaries of fairly high-level corporate executives.

But Danny Go and Bonner Dytoc, middle-class blokes who are not even 40 yet, consider themselves no different from the rest of us. Except for the fact that they are smiling all the way to the bank.

The mass of Filipinos may not yet be feeling the effects of the new highs in the Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi). But market traders like Go and Dytoc have been making a killing since the local market started rising around a year ago.

Using a combination of guile, experience and a watchful eye attuned to the trends, the two expertly dart in and out of the market when they spot opportunities to make a profit.

The 35-year-old Go, a former stockbroker—someone who buys and sells stocks for clients—who dabbles in music, doesn't look like your typical trader. Instead of suits and flashy clothes, Go prefers to wear jeans and sneakers.

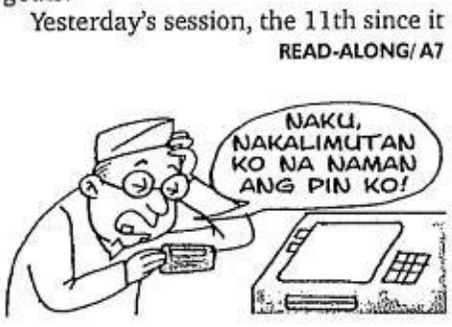
From 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the hours when the PSE is open, Go can be found in front of his computer screen monitoring the market and placing buy-and-sell orders with his broker.

He claims to have chalked up a hefty 100-percent profit on his capital in the past year, trading mostly in mining stocks.

Not bad for a couple of hours' work every day for Go who could never have earned the profits he makes in the market from his gigs as a part-time musician.

"When there's a bull market [that is,

STOCK MARKET/ A13



War vets discover but are wary of ATMs

By Nikko Dizon

"HOW CAN YOU SPEND AN ATM?" wonders an 84-year-old war veteran as the Philippines Veterans Affairs Office encourages the remaining 70,000 of its 260,000 old age pensioners and widows to switch to the automated teller machine to get their monthly pension.

WAR VETS/ A7

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Suu Kyi is her father's daughter

By Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo
Contributor

IN 1930, THE STUDENTS OF THE University of Rangoon formed the All Burma Student Movement to defy the British colonial government.

The leaders were to become the "30 Comrades," handpicked by Aung San for training by the Japanese in the art of guerrilla warfare. They had chosen to ally themselves with the Japanese in the belief that this would help them win independence from the British. Nu and Ne Win were part of the group. Later, it was also these young men who were to lead the struggle for independence.

In 1944, convinced that he had been mistaken about the intentions of the Japanese in Burma, Aung San defected, with his 100,000-man army, to the side of the Allies.

After the war, he represented Burma in the negotiations for independence. And in the national elections for a constituent assembly held in 1947, his party won an overwhelming majority.

But as the constitution was being drafted, armed men broke into a meeting of the interim government and assassinated nine people, among them Aung San and six of his ministers.

So when Burma finally became an independent nation on Jan. 4, 1948, it was U Nu who was its first prime minister. But it is Aung San who is regarded as the father of the nation.

Self-government did not turn out to

SUU KYI/ A8

Editor's Note

THIS INTERVIEW WITH AUNG SAN Suu Kyi was conducted early in 1989, shortly before she was first put under house arrest by the ruling junta of Burma (Myanmar).

Her party, the National League for Democracy, won the general elections in 1990 but was not allowed by the junta to take power.

She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. She was released from house arrest in 1995, but her movements were restricted.

Her second period of house arrest was in 2000-2002. She was freed unconditionally in May 2002, but was subsequently imprisoned after a

EDITOR'S NOTE/ A8

JOB Market
Come on over for the Big difference

Even the educated fall prey to investment scams. Warning signs prospective investors should watch out for
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Are you Afraid of the Dark? Find six magical signs to defeat the forces of the Dark
JUNIOR INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE *Exclusives*
Confessions of a fashion editor; Joyce Ma's revitalized boutiques the toast of Asia; never-before-scenes from the 6th Tatler Ball. Plus a bonus feature: Isabel Preysler, "La Perla de Manila," the toast of European society

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2007

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

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EZ2 SIX DIGIT

26 7 | 2 0 9 3 5 4

(In exact order)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

2 8 1 | 9 6 9

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

8 9 27 33 36 41

P4,424,396.40

'JDV can't threaten GMA'

Puno says Palace meeting never happened

By Michael Lim Ubac

NOBODY CAN THREATEN THE President.

This was the reaction of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, President Macapagal-Arroyo's political affairs adviser, to reports that Speaker de Venecia had told the President that his downfall was sure to lead to her downfall as well.

Puno yesterday also strongly belied De Venecia's claim that he and Ms Arroyo met Thursday behind closed-doors in Malacañang.

"Nobody can threaten the President, and I will not stand for it. That's why I need to let you know that definitely no such meeting happened. If such meeting happened, I would definitely be changing my assessment of the situation," Puno said.

Puno said he would not countenance any kind of threat on the President, and even on the Speaker. "I am a supporter, he knows that. *Napapaaway ako sa sariling* party *dahil sa kanya* (I have quarrels with my own partymates because of my support for him)."

He said he would seek a meeting with De Venecia soon.

"I have to talk to him (and ask him) ... why he said such a thing (because) definitely, it's not true."

De Venecia had told the INQUIRER that he had a closed-door, one-on-one meeting with the President in Malacañang on Thursday morning during which they agreed that one's political demise was sure to lead to the other's downfall.

"That's pretty clear, and she knows it, " De Venecia had said.

But Puno, saying he was speaking on behalf of the President, said he doubted whether De Venecia, who has been the subject of persistent ouster rumors, would say that to the President.

"No such message (was) delivered (by the Speaker). The President was never told anything like that. This is gospel truth," Puno stressed. "Either he was misquoted or something ... but definitely, there was no such one-on-one meeting."

Puno wondered how a one-on-one meeting took place since there were 190 congressmen at the Palace breakfast meeting called by Ms Arroyo herself.

Yesterday, De Venecia admitted there was no one-on-one meeting with the President.

"The meeting happened in full view of House deputy speaker Raul del Mar and majority leader Arthur Defensor," he said.

So there was no one-on-one meeting in the strict sense, he said. He also denied telling the President "I go down, you go down."

De Venecia clarified that what he told the President was that "there should be mutual respect between the executive and the legislative, that we are a partnership of equals."

Puno said the INQUIRER story could be a case of "*kuryente*(bum steer)."

However, he said, that if the Speaker indeed said those words, "I would definitely be changing my assessment of the situation," said Puno, giving credence to talks in political circles that the political conflagration triggered by the controversy over the allegedly overpriced $329-million National Broadband Network project is far from over.

Puno, who has yet to talk to the Speaker when he called up the INQUIRER, said the Speaker's words were surprising because "if he made that statement, it's not like him."

Puno was also at a loss when asked about their own political allies' warning of "mutually assured destruction" for both top leaders of the government and the ruling party Lakas-CMD if De Venecia had insisted on his earlier position against transmitting to the House committee on justice the impeachment complaint lodged against Ms Arroyo.

Bagatsing: GMA safe, but not JDV

By Norman Bordadora

A MEMBER OF THE SO-called Reform Bloc of the administration coalition yesterday downplayed Speaker Jose de Venecia's claim that his ouster from the House leadership will led to the downfall of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"That's rubbish," Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing said.

Bagatsing, a member of the anti-De Venecia clique in the ruling coalition, said there's no longer a credible threat to Ms Arroyo's presidency since the weak impeachment complaint was bound to fail.

De Venecia had told the INQUIRER that in his one-on-one closed door meeting with the President on Thursday, they both agreed that one won't survive if the other was toppled from his or her position of power.

Bagatsing said the threat to Ms Arroyo has been removed following Deputy Speaker Raul Del Mar's referral of the supposedly weak impeachment complaint to the House committee on justice.

In contrast, Bagatsing said there were still members of the House who want De Venecia ousted.

Bagatsing, who had supported Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia in the speakership race, said there are indeed initiatives to oust De Venecia when Congress resumes session in November.

"Watch out for that," Bagatsing said.

He said the Reform Bloc would hold meetings during the three-week break to plot out moves against De Venecia.

Bagatsing noted that De Venecia missed Ms Arroyo's breakfast meeting with administration congressmen in Malacañang on Thursday.

"He was not there. He may not even have been invited," Bagatsing said in an interview.

"You only have to look at the body language of Malacañang. It was a gathering of congressmen and your Speaker isn't there. What does that mean? It clearly shows that relations between the President and the Speaker are already strained," he added.

But Senior Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said there was no attempt by Malacañang to keep De Venecia from the President's breakfast with administration lawmakers.

"The Speaker was invited. He was even the one who told me that night before that there was a breakfast (with the President),' Gonzales told the INQUIRER.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **FREEDOM** of press is alive, says prof /A3

■ **ABORTIONS** declining, but probably not in RP /A5

Shell, Petron hike LPG prices

THE PRICE OF LIQuefied petroleum gas went up yesterday by P1.12 per kilogram, inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax, as oil firms reflected the surge in the product's international contract price this month.

Both Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. implemented the price hike at 6 a.m. yesterday, raising the prices of their Gasul and Shellane 11-kilogram cylinders by P12.32.

According to Petron, this price increase brought to P2.50 per kilogram, excluding VAT, the total price hike implemented for LPG this month—still not enough to cover the P3.20 per kilogram equivalent increase as a result of the surge in the October LPG contract price.

"The LPG contract price increased $82.50 per metric ton (MT) in October to $652.50 per MT, equivalent to P3.20 per kilogram," Petron said.

This price hike brought the price of an 11-kilogram LPG cylinder to between P502.32 and P552.57.

Abigail L. Ho

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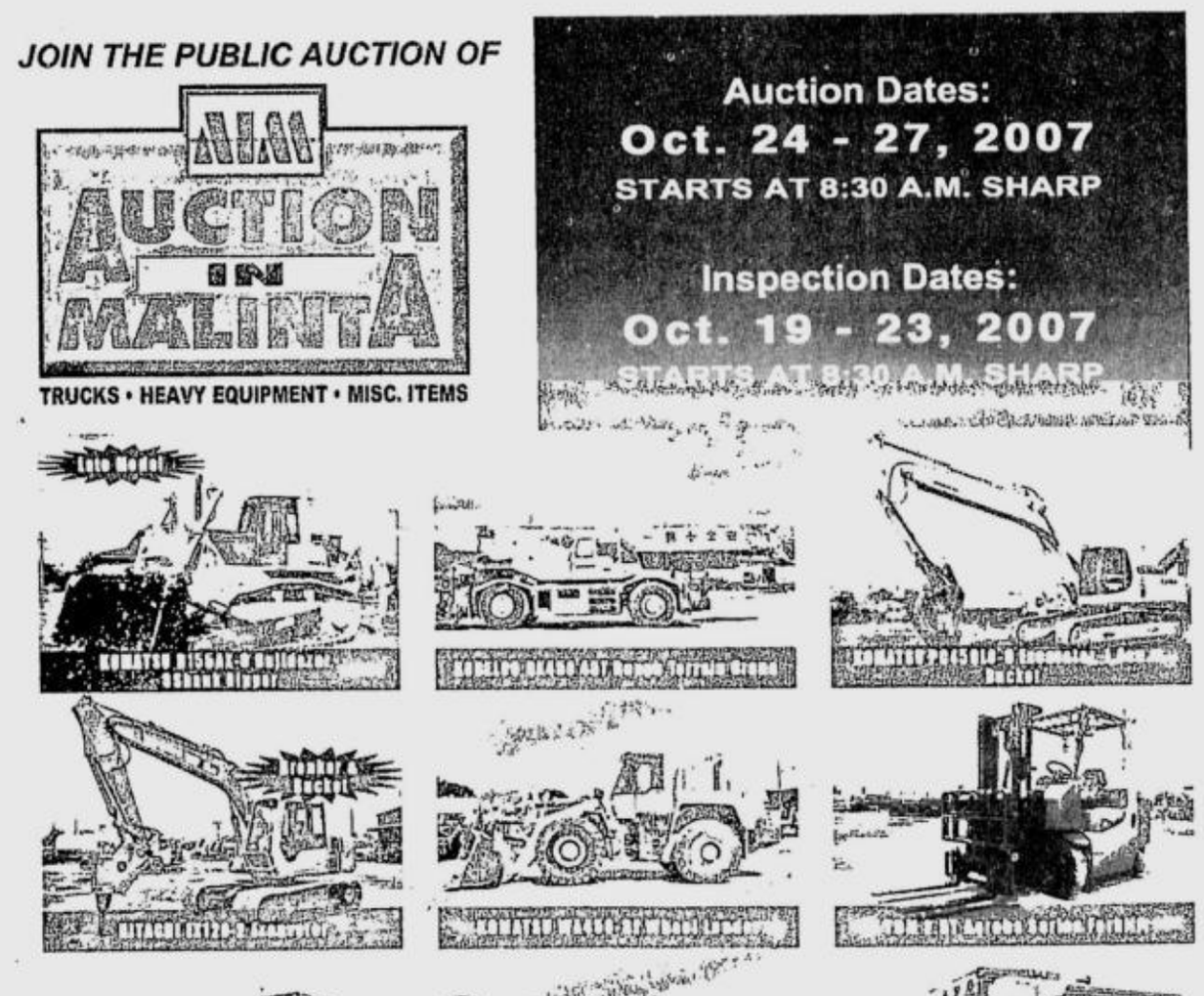

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Freedom of press is alive, says prof

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE HARASSMENT AND KILLING OF journalists has neither cowed the press nor affected the number of students who want to pursue careers in media, journalism professor Luis Teodoro said yesterday.

Despite the killing of over 50 journalists in the country over the past six years, press freedom survives because of "a growing core of professional practitioners who understand their role and duty," said Teodoro in a forum on press freedom held in Makati City.

The forum was sponsored by the Center for Philippine Futuristics Studies and Management.

Teodoro, who is deputy director of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, noted that journalists continue to report and expose anomalies, indicating that the media still exercises a "relative degree of freedom."

Teodoro added that despite the dangers of the profession, broadcasting and journalism courses still remain popular options to students all over the country.

"A career in media is still attractive to students. Over a hundred schools offer courses in mass communication, journalism, and broadcasting. Enrollment figures have stayed the same over the past years," Teodoro said.

The 2007 journalism student population at the University of Santo Tomas and the Lyceum of the Philippines were 347 and 649, respectively. The University of the Philippines boasted an enrollment of 1,123 in its broadcasting and journalism courses in 2006.

He however lamented that the harassment and killing of media practitioners continue because most of the murderers remain unpunished and far from the reach of law.

He also scored the unenthusiastic response of the citizenry to the killings.

Teodoro suggested journalists be provided "safety training" in protecting oneself, as well as skills enhancement and ethical grounding.

The INQUIRER on Friday published a CMFR study concluding that 90 percent of media practitioners killed since 2001 were exposing graft and corruption, illegal gambling and drug trading in their communities.

In the same forum, INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, who is also vice chair of the Philippine Press Institute, said a practitioner's financial security, as well as a media outfit's dependence on advertising, can sometimes affect freedom of expression.

Amendment to antiterror law sought

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales wants the country's antiterrorism law amended, barely fourth months after the controversial law took effect.

Gonzales said the amendments to the Human Security Act (Republic Act 9372) are needed because law enforcers are hesitant to file cases against suspected terrorists because of provisions that are "anti-enforcer."

"We don't want to use the law," Gonzales said when asked in a press conference here Thursday why no cases have been filed for violation of the law since it took effect last July 15.

He said policemen have been wary of filing cases against suspected terrorists since the law imposes stiff fines and imprisonment on law enforcers who file unsubstantiated cases.

The law provides that a person, wrongly accused of violating the Human Security Act who gets an acquittal or whose case is dismissed, will be paid P500,000 for each day of detention.

Testimonial of Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia (ret.) after taking Boston C within one hour

1. Previous History

I discovered I had Type 2 Diabetes 3 years ago with my blood sugar level reaching more than 200. Medication was prescribed to control sugar level – a combination of Solosa and Metformin. Since the start of the medication, my blood sugar level is going up and down during the day.

2. First Encounter with Boston C

When I read in the Phil. Daily Inquirer a one page advertisement regarding herbal anti-cancer and anti-diabetes drugs, I took time out to visit Mr. tony Agustin in 229 Macopa St., Barangay Maligaya, San Miguel, Tarlac City.

I was given on the spot medication, 3 glasses of Boston C.

My intial blood sugar level was - 9.6

15 minutes after drinking one glass – 8.8

15 minutes after drinking one glass – 7.6

15 minutes after drinking one glass – 6.4

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Nora Ocampo, Stage 4 Breast, Liver, Ovary & Bone Cancer Survivor

My illness two years ago was breast cancer: Stage 3A when I was operated on. After two years, it spread to my liver, ovary and bones. I could not stand anymore. At St. Luke Hospital, they said that they have to remove my ovary, undergo RFA for my liver, and later on chemotherapy. I did not have my liver treated. The following day, I decided to just take cyeton S orally and by intravenously.

In six months, my liver was negative of cancer cells and my ovary was normal. Now, there is no more illness in my bones because of Boston C Herbal Products and intravenous treatment.

Raul Colungca Pancreatic and Liver Cancer Survivor

I was born and raise in Texas, USA and I am a retired military man. I was in the logistic field Saudi Arabia in January 2004. I went for an operation for gall stone, only to find out that I had cancer. I had raptured cancerous tumors that spread through my body. When they told me I had three weeks to live, I went to Duke University in the US and underwent chemotherapy to get well again. And they told me I was at forth stage of pancreatic cancer and that there was no cure.

I underwent chemotherapy for eight months and the end result is that I became immune to chemotherapy. I read an article about the Philippines and about some patients who had been here and took Boston C. They said that the results were great and they told me about the good works that they had been doing here. Mostly, it was on the positive side. I decided to take a chance and came here to the Philippines and sought treatment.

On the first round of Boston C intravenous treatment, it seems like the result was positive for the most part. Not a hundred percent but there was quite a bit of improvement. I'm very glad about that. At least there was an improvement that wasn't there before. My tumor supposedly, according to the test, wasn't there anymore but I still have to take another test. They call it CT scan to make doubly sure that the tumor is completely gone. I still get some metastases in the liver but it has been reduced abut 30% in a matter of thirteen days. I had been here in the Boston C Tarlac clinic for thirteen days and I followed the instructions they gave me. I drank the supplement they gave me and there was an improvement. Not a hundred percent but it shows vast improvement. I feel a little better and a litte stronger and lost a little weight but I understood that because my appetite wasn't very good. By now, I'm gaining a little weight and I plan to come back for another treatment and I'm hoping that it will cure me completely. That is my hope.

Rodolfo Andaya Chronic Renal Failure survivor

I am Rodolfo Andaya, from Barangay Kaniyogan, Pasig. Two years ago I was told I had kidney failure. My doctor said, "This will require long term treatment". I was then told of the many options that I can choose from like major operation, kidney transplant which made me depressed then. I told myself that I was never going to get well. I felt pain in my stomach on many different occasions. I couldn't sleep. My weight really went down. Even my blood pressure went down. I then underwent dialysis for seven sessions and even had blood transfusion. My expenses were piling up and I felt that I couldn't hold any longer. Because of my predicament, I prayed all the time and everyday to the Almighty above. Then a friend of mine visited me and advised me to take Boston C. I then started taking Boston C after each meal. I noticed thereafter that there were "black" materials whenever I defecated. Now everything is normal including my urination. I still take Boston C because I think it will prevent any problems from recurring.

Helen Napiza 4th Stage Lung Cancer

"Three years ago, I had a mass in my lungs that was about the size of a golf ball. My doctor advised me to have a biopsy done but I opted not to have that done because somebody told me about Boston C. I underwent IV therapy using Boston C for one week and then oral therapy for 6 months. Afterwards, I underwent CT Scan, X-ray to find out if the mass is still there. All tests revealed negative with the help of Boston C."

Antonia Dotdot Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer

I am from Hongkong; and I have been a cancer patient since the year 2000. They operated on my left ovary. They removed it along with my appendix. But I did not undergo chemotherapy, that's why it metastazed to my right ovary. So they removed it. They should have removed both ovaries during my first operation. Anyway, I was already 50 years old. I was scheduled to have chemotherapy session but even after that, my cancer level was still high and I had a tumor in my liver.

The doctor wanted me to undergo six (6) sessions but I refused to do the chemotherapy. After that, my family including my husband accepted that my life will be short lived. We prayed and attended mass every day asking for a miracle for almost three (3) months. We even attended El Shaddai.

Then one day, my husband's assistant told him about Boston C herbal theraphy. So I called Mr. Agustin. right away and I was admitted to the Boston C clinic in tarlac for two weeks. That was three (3) years ago, March 2003.

After the treatment, I went back to Hong Kong for another check up. My oncologist was surprised because my cancer level went down. Before Boston C, my cancer level was 77.6 after the fifteen (15) days intravenous treatment of Boston C, my cancer level went down to 34.8. the oncologist was surprised and asked me to bring him a bottle of Cyeton S.

I stayed in Hong Kong for at least a year and then came back for my second Boston C treatment which was only for five (5) days because I felt all right. I brought a lot of Cyeton S, Ultimo and Boston C Plain to Hong Kong and Drank it religiously everyday.

This time is my third treatment in the cllinic after the three (3) years. Now, my cancer level is only 26. That is only 6 point higher than the normal level which is 20. I am really getting better. It is very dramatic.

Flordeliza Montejo Brain Cancer Survivor

A team from Boston C paid Mrs. Flordeliza Montejo, 58 years old, a visit in her home town in Orion, Bataan. Her daughter. Perlita Montejo, and caregiver, Julieta Garon reminisced how in 2003, Flordeliza was diagnosed to have brain cancer; and how she unfortunatelycould not be operated on. Due to this, the tumor grew and she went blind. She was very weak, had no appetite, was bedridden and almost paralyzed. She could not stand, let alone, walk. But somehow, her family found out about Boston C and brought her to the Tarlac clinic where Flordeliza was confined for ten days for an intravenous treatment to fast track her healing process. After this, she continued taking a prescribed dosage of Boston C herbal extracts orally for the next few months. Now, Flordeliza's brain tumor is completely gone. She has been cancer free for some years now, and it was very heart warming for the Boston C team to talk to her and to see her demonstrate a walk, and even mimic a dance. On her part, she must have been thrilled to see herself on the video monitor for the first time as the team played back her interview.

Topy Urbano, formerly insulin dependent diabetic

When Ultimo was introduced to me, I drank it but I still had my insulin injection, two times a day, in the morning and in the afternoon. After three months, I lessen my insulin intake. Then I consulted my doctor. He said my blood level is now normal.

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GLOBAL FIGURES

Abortions declining, but probably not in RP

ABORTIONS WORLDWIDE ARE ON THE decline, according to two international studies released yesterday. But the good news may not apply to countries like the Philippines where abortion is illegal and birth control is not so widely available.

According to studies by the Guttmacher Institute and the World Health Organization (WHO) the decline in abortions—from 46 million in 1995 to under 42 million in 2003—was felt most significantly in Eastern Europe because of increased use of birth control methods. Western Europe in 2003 had the lowest abortion rate in the world at 12 per 1,000.

There was practically no change in the rate of unsafe or illegal abortions, nearly half of which are performed in Asia and Africa.

"The continuing high incidence of unsafe abortion in developing countries represents a public health crisis and a human rights atrocity," said Beth Fredrick of the International Women's Health Coalition in the US, in an accompanying commentary.

"The legal status of abortion has never dissuaded women and couples, who, for whatever reason, seek to end pregnancy," said Fredrick.

About 70,000 women die every year from unsafe abortions. Another 5 million women suffer permanent or temporary damage.

In the Philippines, the Department of Health (DOH) has no specific data on abortion incidences because it is illegal and unreported.

Yolly Oliveros, director of the DOH's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, said in an interview that it is hard to verify for now if the Philippines reflects the declining incidence of abortion worldwide.

In its website, Pro-Life Philippines said that a research by the University of the Philippines Population Institute in Metro Manila estimates that about 17 percent of Filipino women undergo an induced abortion.

The UP research also said that every year, as much as 750,000 women undergo induced abortion in illegal clinics in the country.

The powerful Catholic Church is leading the prolife campaign in the Philippines against the use of artificial birth control methods and the legalization of abortion.

Pro-Life's national coordinator, Sister Pilar Versoza, told the INQUIRER that they consider the use of pills, intra-uterine devices (IUDs), and emergency and oral contraceptives as "abortifacients" or non-surgical forms of abortion, and expressed concern that the use of such methods was on the rise.

The real problem that needs to be resolved, she said, is the mentality that people can have sex and not have a baby.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sharon Camp, president and chief executive of the Guttmacher Institute said in a statement that the global study on abortion confirms that the best way to make abortion less necessary is to help women avoid unwanted pregnancies.

The study said that about a third of the world's 205 million yearly pregnancies are unintended, and 20 percent of these end in induced abortion.

The downward trend in abortions was happening "too slowly and too unevenly across different regions," the studies said.

"It's high time for policymakers worldwide to renew their commitment to women's health by addressing these crucial issues," said Camp. *Beverly T. Natividad, AP, Reuters*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 14, 2007
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 Kings 5:14-17**

The cure of Naaman.

Naaman went down to the Jordan where he washed himself seven times as Elisha had ordered. His skin became soft like that of a child and he was cleansed.

Then Naaman returned to the man of God with all his men. He entered and said to him, "Now I know that there is no other God anywhere in the world but in Israel. I ask you to accept these gifts from your servant."

But Elisha answered, "I swear by Yahweh whom I serve, I will accept nothing." And however much Naaman insisted, Elisha would not accept his gifts.

So Naaman told him, "Since you refuse, let me get some sacks of soil from your land—the amount that two mules can carry. I shall use it to build an altar to Yahweh, for I shall not offer sacrifices to any other god but him."

2nd Reading: **2 Timothy 2:8-13**

We shall live with him.

Remember Christ Jesus, risen from the dead, Jesus, son of David, as preached in my Gospel. For this Gospel I labor and even wear chains like an evildoer, but the word of God is not chained. And so I bear everything for the sake of the chosen people, that they, too, may obtain the salvation given to us in Christ Jesus and share eternal glory. This statement is true:

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;

If we endure with him, we shall reign with him;

If we deny him, he will also deny us;

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

Gospel: **Luke 17:11-19**

The ten lepers.

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee, and as he entered a village, 10 lepers came to meet him. Keeping their distance, they called to him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Then Jesus said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Now, as they went their way, they found they were cured. One of them, as soon as he saw he was cleansed, turned back praising God in a loud voice, and throwing himself on his face before Jesus, he gave him thanks. This man was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus said, "Were not all 10 healed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God but this alien?" And Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you."

Commentary

Naaman the leper obeys the command of Elisha the prophet and is made whole. He returns praising the God of Israel as the only God and declares that he is now the servant of this God. Elisha will not take his gift—the power was God's alone—and instead he takes earth from the land of Israel, where God is Lord. Paul is writing Timothy from prison, reminding him that his sufferings are bound to other believers' needs. We who have died with Christ (in baptism and persecution) will also rise with him but we must hold on and be faithful. We must be sure not to deny God when times are hard or whenever we grow tired.

Jesus is met by 10 lepers, one of them a Samaritan, and they beg him for healing. He heals them all and they return, seeking acceptance from the temple so that they may pick up their lives again. And only one returns to bless God in Jesus—the Samaritan. Jesus tells him to stand up (resurrection life) and to go his way for now he knows faith and salvation, and not just respite from his illness. All of us have been forgiven, strengthened, healed repeatedly. Do we live lives of thanksgiving (eúcharist) by sharing all we have with others in gratitude? Does our liturgy get expressed in our lives or do we use God for what we want/need and then forget all about who God is and what God has done for us?

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UN cites Infanta social action center

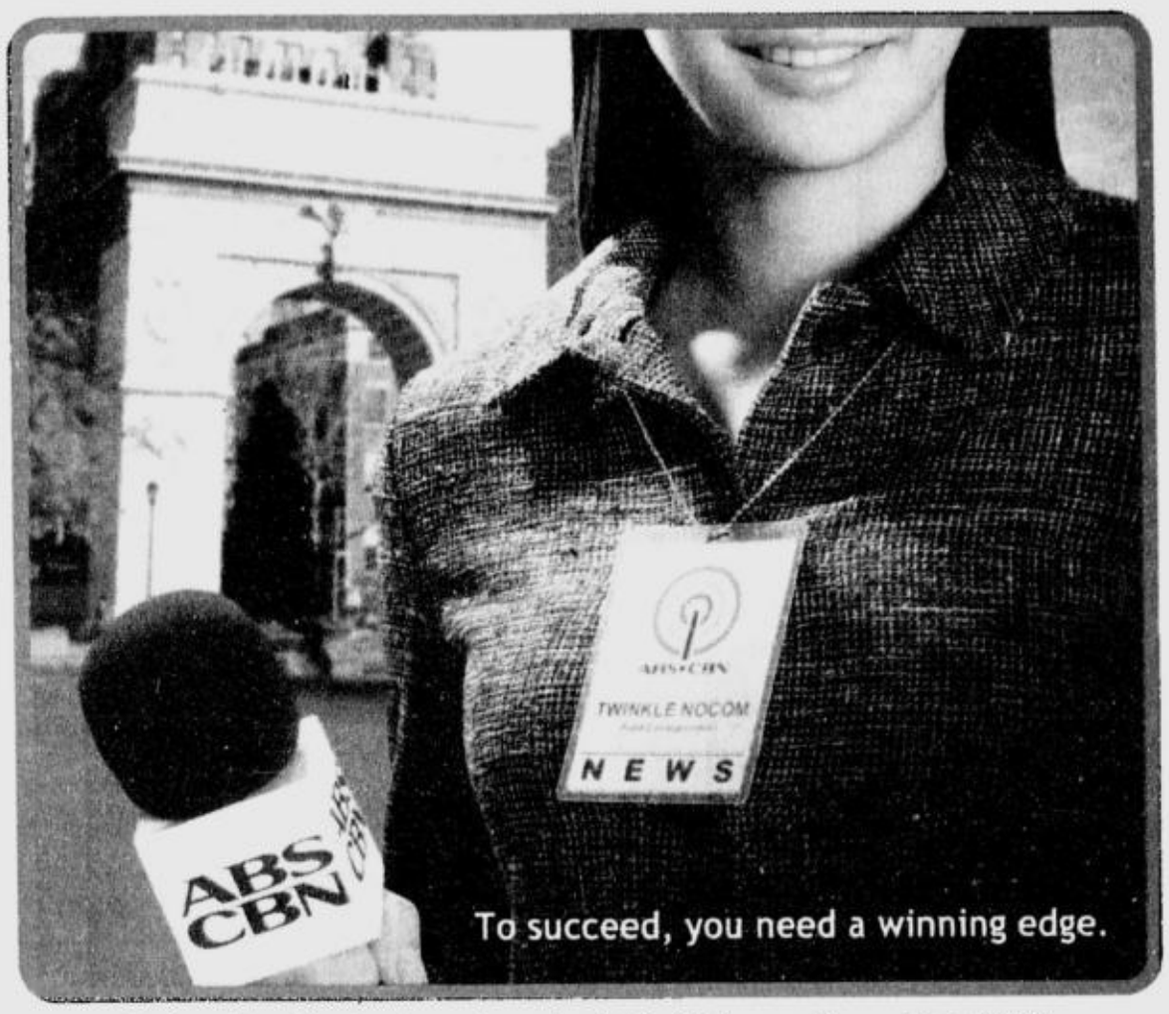
LUCENA CITY—THE SOCIAL ACTion Center of the Prelature of Infanta in northern Quezon has been cited by the United Nations for its commitment to disaster risk reduction.

Deacon Mario Van Loon, SAC-PI coordinator, said the jury for the prestigious 2007 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction had named the church-based center as one of three organizations that had been awarded with Certificates of Merit in recognition of their valuable work and achievement in the field of disaster reduction.

Aside from SAC-PI, the UN also cited Red Habitat en Riesgo (in Argentina) and the Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Program (DiMP) (South Africa).

"These organizations are being recognized for their dedicated pioneering work that has led to increased resilience of societies in their spheres of influence," the award administrator, UN-International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), said in its website.

Disaster risk reduction refers to a wide sector of work on disaster management including mitigation, prevention, risk reduction, preparedness, and vulnerabilities. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*



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CEBU PACIFIC
It's time everyone flies.

Gov bares Palace payoff, says he can't tell a lie

From page A1

pines (Ulap), the umbrella organization of governors, mayors and other local officials, ostensibly to discuss the progress of infrastructure projects in the "super regions."

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It was held hours after a breakfast meeting between Ms Arroyo and around 190 congressmen, where envelopes containing amounts of between P200,000 and P500,000 were reportedly distributed. (Malacañang and some congressmen denied this, but Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco confirmed he was given P200,000 as "Christmas gift.")

'Like Japanese tourists'

A local official tipped the INQUIRER that envelopes containing cash were also given out during the President's meeting with Ulap members.

The source, who asked not to be named because of the sensitive nature of the subject, said the envelopes contained amounts ranging from P20,000 to P500,000 and were distributed so mayors and governors would support the dismissal of the supposedly weak impeachment complaint lodged against Ms Arroyo.

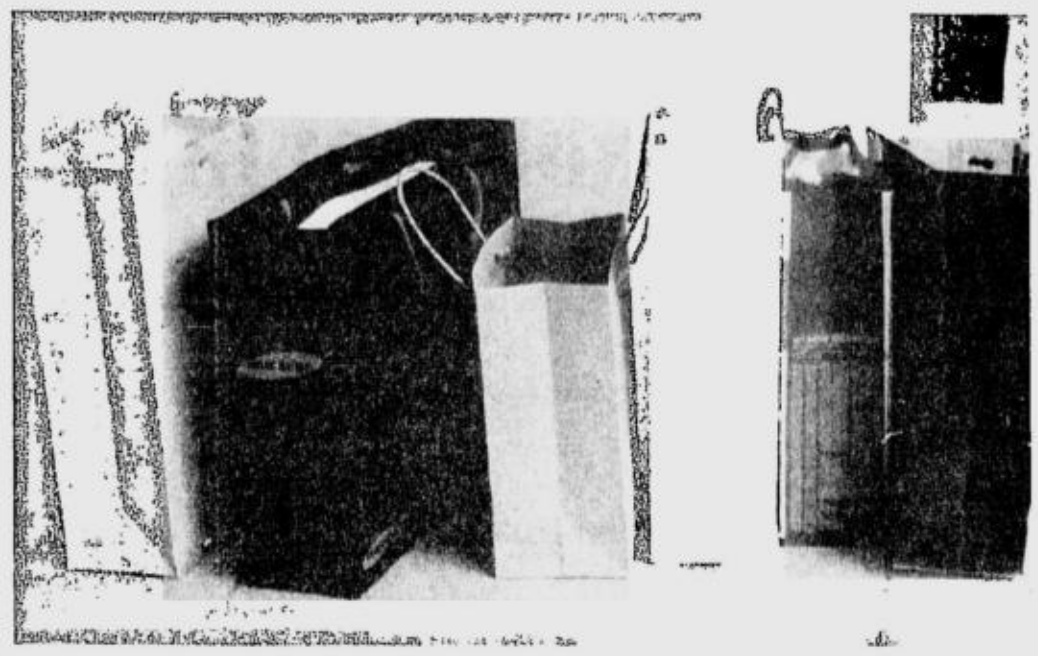
The complaint, filed by private lawyer Roel Pulido, was referred to the House committee on justice late on Thursday.

"They looked funny because when they came out of Malacañang, they carried identical paper bags containing the money. They were like Japanese tourists who came out of a store with similar shopping bags," the source told the INQUIRER.

It was earlier reported that 48 of the 81 governors and an undetermined number of mayors attended the meeting.

The source said P500,000 was apparently for the governors, and amounts of P20,000, P30,000, P50,000, P100,000, P200,000, P300,000 and P500,000 were given to city and municipal mayors.

According to the source, the amount depended on the size of the municipality: "If you are from a small municipality, you got P20,000. Big cities received P100,000 to P300,000, while chartered cities and provinces received P500,000."



THESE EMPTY shopping bags, discarded by recipients in Malacañang, used to contain peso bills as much as P500,000, according to accounts.

The source also said that apart from Ms Arroyo, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Undersecretary Tonypet Albano of the Office of Coalition Affairs were present at the meeting with Ulap.

But Ms Arroyo and Ermita were not present when the envelopes were distributed by Remedios "Medy" Poblador of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office and other functionaries, the source said.

'Giving help'

Panlilio said that before he left the meeting of the local officials, he learned from other governors that Ms Arroyo would be "giving help" for the barangay elections.

"May ibibigay daw pagkatapos ng miting," he said, adding:

"Jonjon (Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza) and I discussed whether to accept the money or not. Jonjon said he would accept it if I decide to accept it."

But it's apparently the priest's word against his colleagues and other local government officials.

Mendoza, a member of Ms Arroyo's party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), said he had not received any money from any staff member of Malacañang.

Mendoza said in a phone interview that he came to the meeting because he had something to discuss with Ms Arroyo—the purported refusal of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to replace Senior Supt. Asher Dolina as Bulacan police director.

Silence

There was only silence from other governors.

Repeated calls by the INQUIRER to Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone (secretary general of the League of Provinces of the Philippines or LPP), Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Ocampos (the LPP national president), and Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, (past national president of Ulap), went for naught.

There was likewise no response from the governors of the Southern Luzon provinces—Vilma Santos-Recto (Batangas), Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi (Cavite), Teresita Lazaro (Laguna), and Arnel Panaligan (Oriental Mindoro)—despite repeated calls and text messages.

Evardone had earlier told reporters that if the Pulido impeachment complaint had no basis, the governors could "appeal" to congressmen to junk it.

The complaint was purportedly meant to protect the President from another and stronger impeachment complaint for one year.

None for mayors

Mayor Ramon Guico of Binalonan, Pangasinan, president of Ulap and of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and a cousin of Ms Arroyo, also denied having received money from Malacañang on Thursday.

"*Wala sa* mayors. *Di kilala ang* mayors (There was nothing for mayors. Mayors are not well-known)," Guico said.

He said he could not speak for the governors present because some of them were "suddenly pulled out of the Heroes Hall" in Malacañang by Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte.

He said he was informed that the governors went to the Guest House: "They went out before lunch and returned one by one later."

Guico said members of the Ulap national executive board and Ulap as an organization did not receive money or financial support from Malacañang on Thursday.

He said the mayors and governors gathered at the Heroes Hall for the oathtaking of Ulap officers.

Asked to comment, Governor Villafuerte said in a text message: "I attended the governors' meeting as chair of the League of Provinces and as Regional Development Council chair of Bicol. There was no cash gift given."

'Fortunate'

Mandaue Vice Mayor Carlo Pontico Fortuna, past national secretary general of Ulap, likewise denied that money was distributed to them on Thursday.

Said Fortuna: "[The congressmen] are fortunate because they were given [cash gifts]. We did not receive any. We were there because of the turnover [of responsibilities to the new set of Ulap officers] and secondly, for the terminal meeting of the outgoing Ulap officials. The mayors and the governors were also being called. And I suppose they were there because they were asked to listen to the developments in the 'super region' program."

Manapla Mayor Manuel M. Escalante III, president of the Negros Occidental chapter of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, said he attended the meeting but was not given any money, nor was he aware that others were given money. *Reports from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, Kit Bagaipo, Carla P. Gomez, Joey A. Gabieta, Marlon Ramos and Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon; Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

Bagful of bills is 1st big test ...

From page A1

was being bribed.

The man said it was money that Panlilio could use to help in the barangay elections.

"I initially said I could not use it because I ran as an independent candidate and still don't have a political party that would support candidates for barangay officials. I also said I should respect the nonpartisanship of barangay candidates," Panlilio remembers explaining to the man.

"He did not tie it to any controversies about the President. He did not demand that I stay loyal to the President. I don't think I was being bribed to cut corners or to break the law," said Panlilio, adding he did not sign any receipt or document.

Panlilio, a priest for the past 26 years, took a leave from the priesthood last March to run against board member Lilia Pineda and reelectionist governor Mark Lapid in the May elections.

As the Palace man said he could also use the money for "barangay projects," Panlilio said he thought of the many requests for day care centers and roads for which he had little funds and decided to accept the money.

He said he summoned his conscience to weigh the moral implications of his decision.

"Since that was public money and it belonged to the people, I decided to take it and use it in a beneficial way," he said.

Panlilio said his response would have been an "outright no" if the money was meant to protect "jueteng," quarry irregularities and overpriced, substandard projects.

"I couldn't be blind to the needs of my constituents. That's public money anyway. What will matter is how I would use it and I intend to use it to answer the people's needs," he said.

He said he remembers the late Jaime Cardinal Sin's stance with the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos from whom Sin accepted donations even as he criticized him for his abuses.

Panlilio said the money has been turned over to the Pampanga provincial administrator Vivian Dabu for safekeeping.

"The money is still intact, not a bill removed from the bag," he said.

On Monday, Dabu will convene the social services units to assess which requests are urgent. The barangays that will be given the funds will be asked to sign for it and report how it was used.

Panlilio said he was not familiar with the ways of Malacañang. He did not think it was irregular for the President to give financial help to local officials as long as the aid comes from public funds.

"My conscience tells me that whatever resources came my way, as long as these came from public taxes and honest means, I will utilize these for the people who have little means to improve public utilities in their communities," he said.

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Read-Along: Children learn ...

From page A1

was launched early this year, was attended by 50 children. Volunteer storytellers included TV actor Dingdong Dantes, wife and mother Weena Kapunan and Alitaptap member Ray Escasinas.

The six children with special learning difficulties attend the Center of Alternative and Relevant Education (CARE).

This was their first time to attend such an activity and they found it "very enjoyable," said Roy C. Iglesias, executive director of CARE. "Most of the children at [the center] have either autism or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder."

Jennifer Sorio, one of the teachers from CARE, said the use of pictures and quizzes make it easier for children with special learning difficulties to understand the lesson.

"These children have short attention spans, so in order to hold their interest we use various methods in teaching, like pictographs and visual aids," said Sorio. "We also pause several times when telling a story to ask questions and to check if they're still following."

Twenty-two-year-old Escasinas of Alitaptap, a Foreign Service graduate from the Lyceum of the Philippines, jumpstarted the session by reading "Billy Goats Gruff" and "Carangcal Conquers the Earthquake."

Escasinas warmed up the kids, who chanted with him while he read the stories.

Up next was Kapunan, who came with husband Adel Tamano and their two sons Mike and Santi, a special child. She read "My Muslim Friend," a touching story about a friendship between a Christian and a Muslim.

Diversity

"Every single day, children are forming their beliefs and values. This is why it is important for adults to teach kids about equality by dispelling prejudices about religion and gender," Kapunan said.

Married for nearly a decade to Tamano, spokesperson for the Genuine Opposition during the 2007 elections, Kapunan said she and her husband started reading to their children when they were just 2 or 3 years old.

"We're both bookworms. We're nerds!" Kapunan said with a laugh, remembering how she and her husband had "reading dates" in coffee shops.

She, however, conceded that her husband was the better storyteller. "He changes his voice to fit the mood of the story."

First time

Actor Dantes said his hectic schedule did not give him time to read as much as he wanted to.

But when he received the invitation to read for INQUIRER Read-Along session, he made it a point to free up his morning schedule.

"There may not be another chance for me to do something this," said Dantes, known for his role as Sergio Santibañez in "Marimar," a soap aired on GMA 7. "It's my first time to read to children. I love kids and I love these kinds of activities."

He added that this was his way of giving back. "I really wanted to be there for them. It's the only way to show appreciation for my blessings."

Act out or straight read?

At first, Dantes was nervous. But the moment he entered the room, the children put him at ease.

"I felt their aura. They were very welcoming, very warm," he said.

He also struggled with how he would bring to life "Pandakotyong," the story of a brave tailor who wins the heart and hand of a princess.

"I was torn between acting out the story or just reading it and allowing the kids' imagination to roam free," he said. "In the end, I did a little of both—I made the story entertaining and understandable at the same time."

Yesterday's INQUIRER Read-Along program was sponsored by Krispy Kreme, Hands On Manila, Standard Chartered Bank and McDonald's.

The program, which aims to impart the love of reading to children aged 7 to 13, is held on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at the INQUIRER main office on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City.

With reports from Schatzi Quodala and Eliza Victoria, Inquirer Research

War vets discover ...

From page A1

"We're trying to convince them to use the ATM. We want our pensioners to get their money the faster and safer way," Ernesto Carolina, defense undersecretary for civil, veterans, and reserve affairs, told the INQUIRER last week.

Prior to the ATM program, war veterans or their unmarried widows had been receiving their monthly "old age" pension, which starts from P1,000 to a maximum of P5,000, from the PVAO via check or bank remittance.

Quite a number of pensioners were understandably apprehensive about the ATM, introduced in the Philippines in the 1980s.

"Some were worried that they might forget their PIN (personal identification number). Others say they do not know how to use the ATM. There were those who pointed out they're disabled or too old to go to the bank," Carolina said.

War veteran Dulcisimo Guiao, who at 85 years old remains alert and witty, wondered out loud what an ATM was.

He fought in World War II as a guerrilla in Pampanga, his hometown. Guiao was at the PVAO assistance center last Wednesday with his daughter, grandchildren and great-grandson, 4-year-old Andrei, to show authorities that he was still alive and kicking—part of the requirements to ensure his continued monthly pension.

ATM and texting

"How can you spend [an ATM]?" Guiao asked his granddaughter, Rosal Sato, in Filipino. "Someone's not going to give the money anymore?"

He told the INQUIRER that his grandchildren were helping him with his PVAO requirements or he would visit them from the grave. Then he laughed and threw up his arms.

"Joke *lang* (I'm just joking)!" Guiao said.

Sato, 36, explained to her grandfather that an ATM is a machine that allows a person to withdraw money using a plastic card.

Guiao started shaking his head and said: "*Wala ako hilig sa ganyan. Ni-mag* text *hindi ako marunong* (I'm not into that. I don't even know how to send text messages)!"

Carolina said that of the 260,000 war veterans and widows, 60 percent of them are below 70 years old while the rest are more than 70 years old.

Veterans are those who have served, either as part of the military or recognized guerrilla organizations, in the Spanish-American War, the Second World War, and other campaigns for liberation such as the Vietnam War and the Korean War, or the Armed Forces of the Philippines for six years. (The law was amended in May and increased the number of years to 20, according to Carolina.)

Military veterans receive their "old age pension," among other pensions provided by PVAO, upon reaching the age of 65.

Using the ATM will not only avoid problems such as pilferage or lost checks, it will also be more convenient for the aging war veterans. They no longer have to go to the bank to cash the check or issue a power of attorney authorizing a dependent to cash the check or withdraw from a passbook in their behalf.

The PVAO will save some P2 million a month in mailing and handling costs, according to Carolina.

Reintroducing the ATM

The ATM program is not new; it was actually launched a couple of years ago.

Out of the 70,000 pensioners who have yet to avail of the ATM program, less than 50,000 get their checks by mail, while the rest receive their pension through direct bank remittance.

In July, the PVAO sent letters to pensioners, encouraging them to apply—within 90 days from receipt of the letter—for an ATM account in any PVAO-accredited bank of their choice. The office aims for a full implementation of the program by the end of this month or early November.

But not all veterans have received their letters about the ATM program.

For instance, Sato said her grandfather heard about it at the PVAO assistance center only last Wednesday from another veteran who was inquiring about the ATM program.

She said using the ATM would be more convenient for her grandfather.

"He's already having a hard time traveling. *Hinihingal na* (He has difficulty catching his breath)," she said. "I think the ATM is better because you can withdraw anytime."

Guiao, who whiles away his time doing pencil sketches, said the P5,000 he receives monthly is just enough to buy his medicines.

"*Salamat na rin* (I'm still thankful)," he said.

Carolina said the PVAO was working on a "parallel reform" program that would even make it easier for war veterans to obtain their monthly pension.

He added that the PVAO would like to follow the "template" of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) offices which deal with "few but efficient banks."

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Suu Kyi is her father's daughter

From page A1

be simple, particularly given the problem of the minority ethnic groups. By 1962, Gen. Ne Win had assumed power in a nearly bloodless coup, and declared Burma a socialist country.

A revolutionary council, composed entirely of military men, held absolute power. The state took control of all businesses. Foreign companies and lands were nationalized. And a foreign policy of isolation and neutrality was strictly imposed.

Since then, Burma's economy has slipped steadily backward. In December 1987, it applied for and was granted Least Developed Country status by the United Nations.

Aung San's daughter

In 1988, the people of Burma took to the streets once again. Once again, they were led by students. And once again, it was a struggle for freedom, a rebellion against 27 years of repression and stagnation.

But this time, among its inspiring forces was a woman: Aung San's daughter, Aung San Suu Kyi.

When the London-based scholar arrived in Rangoon to visit her ailing mother in April of [1988], few people believed that the student riots of the previous month would continue, and that the government would find itself faced with an actual revolution.

Certainly, no one would have predicted that the pretty, soft-spoken intellectual would become a major leader of the embattled opposition. But being Buddhist, she must now accept it as her destiny.

"Yes, it seems to prove the cliché that truth is stranger that fiction," says Aung San Suu Kyi.

Her mother's house

We are sitting in the living room of her mother's house on University Avenue in Rangoon. It is here that we came to sign the book of condolence when Daw Khin Kyi, her mother, passed away in December 1987.

The room has been converted into an office, with a large desk occupying the center of the room. It is very simply furnished, almost bare.

Aung San Suu Kyi is wearing the traditional Burmese dress, a white, long-sleeved closely fitted blouse *(eingyi)* and a red printed sarong *(longyi)*. Her hair is pulled back in a severe bun.

She is slim and fair and fragile-looking, younger and prettier than her 43 years and her pictures make her out to be.

Looking at her, and listening to her, it is not difficult to understand what drew her to the limelight, or to appreciate the mystique that continues to surround her, even after the apparent failure of the movement of which she has come to be the best-known figure.

Besides her name, there is also everything else she is—young, attractive, educated in the best schools of the west, fluent in several languages, poised, self-assured, straightforward. She would seem to embody what Burma wants for itself in the future.

Ambivalence

And yet, one has encountered in many Burmese people a certain ambivalence toward her, precisely because she is all of these things. (And, perhaps, also because she is married to a foreigner.)

It is the same ambivalence that is reflected in the deep suspicion with which the Burmese seem to regard everything that is foreign (or, more specifically, western), despite the eagerness with which they want to open up and modernize their own society.

The government has tried to make an issue of her being married to a foreigner, and an Englishman at that. There are rumors that even if elections should in fact be held [in 1990] as promised, she would be disqualified from running for any position by some provision in the electoral code about individuals who "derive benefits from other countries."

Aung San Suu Kyi is well aware of this duality of attitude, and has always made a point of the fact that though she may have spent most of her life away from her country, she is steeped in its traditions.

She has devoted many years to studying its culture. She wears only the traditional dress, speaks flawless Burmese, and—if one is to take the word of Burmese friends—has the graciousness of a perfectly brought up Burmese lady.

Burmese childhood

She is also very articulate, answering questions briskly and directly in her very British English. But she seems reluctant to discuss her private life. Her replies are short, almost curt.

Then, just when one is beginning to feel chilled, a winsome smile breaks out, and one is charmed instead.

Her childhood she describes simply as "a typical Burmese childhood." Having been only two years old when her father was assassinated, she has no memories of him. Nor did she grow up feeling he was a legend.

"People spoke to me about him, as they will speak to any child about its dead father," she says. "That's all."

From her secretary, the artist Thanegi, who has given up painting for a while to volunteer her services for free to Aung San Suu Kyi, we have learned that after Aung San's death, Daw Khin Kyi went back to work, to support her children.

She was a teacher and a nurse. Later, she was appointed ambassador to India by the Burmese government.

Aung San Suu Kyi, then 15, accompanied her mother, stayed for a year, and then went on to study politics, philosophy and economics at St. Hugh's College, Oxford University.

There were no Burmese students in Oxford during her time. Her friends were British, Indian, Canadian, Israeli. She did not choose them on the basis of their nationality.

Traveling

By the time she had gotten her degree, the military government was already in power in Burma. To have come home would have been to go to work for the government, unless one was a businessman, which she wasn't.

She went instead to New York, where she worked from 1969 to 1972 with the staff of the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

After that, there was marriage to the British scholar, Michael Aris. *(Mr. Aris died of cancer in Britain in March 1999.-ED.)* She went with him to Bhutan, where he had been hired as tutor to the royal family.

She herself worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, doing research on the UN, which Bhutan has just joined, and, incidentally, learning Bhutanese.

She also spent a year as a visiting scholar at Kyoto University, doing research on her father, and learning Japanese.

Finally, the Arises moved back to England—Michael to lecture on Tibetan and Himalayan studies at Oxford, and Aung San Suu Kyi to study for a doctorate at the London University's School of Oriental and African Studies.

That was the world she meant to return to after her visit to her mother in Rangoon, when events swept her along, and she found herself both symbol and rallying point of the revolution.

First speech

Half a million people filled the temple grounds of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda when she made her first public speech on Aug. 26, 1988, after the crackdown on demonstrators that left casualties estimated by diplomats at 3,000 in Rangoon alone.

They listened with tears in their eyes, while she counseled courage and non-violence, even as she called for the resignation of the Burma Socialist Program Party. Then they cheered her wildly.

Everywhere she goes now, people turn up in the thousands. To the long-suffering people, she is more than an opposition leader. She is successor to her father, the national hero.

When the demonstrations started in late July, it seemed for a while that the events would follow the Philippine pattern, a pattern to a certain extent repeated in South Korea.

There were the large crowds of demonstrators from all classes, marching peacefully, led by students and monks. There was the strategy of civil disobedience. There were the songs, the proffered flowers, the soldiers refusing to shoot at unarmed civilians.

Then the situation changed dramatically. The dreaded 22nd Light Infantry Division was brought in to replace less bloodthirsty troops, and proceeded to do as commanded.

Even then, it seemed that all was not lost, especially when the "butcher of Rangoon," Sein Lwin, resigned, after only 17 days in office, and Maung Maung, a civilian lawyer, became President.

The students continued marching. They were joined by even larger crowds of doctors, lawyers, actors and actresses, singers, housewives.

Some members of the armed forces defected to the people. When even military heroes, including the nine surviving members of the "30 Comrades," sided with the dissidents, it seemed like the happy ending was in view.

And then the military took over again, and the bloodletting began afresh.

Different situations

People outside find it difficult to understand why the Burmese army could do what it did, we tell Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Because they were told to," she says.

But the soldiers in the Philippines were also under orders to shoot, and they didn't.

Now that we are talking politics, there is an unmistakable change in Aung San Suu Kyi. Her dark eyes sparkle; she is more animated, more involved.

"I think the situation in our two countries are very different," she says.

"In the Philippines, the army is not as involved in politics as ours. It is also not as brainwashed. Even in the Marcos days, you had a relatively free press. I say 'relatively,' meaning, compared to the Burmese press. There were other political parties. There were other organizations which constituted a kind of opposition. The army could read other views besides the government's. Here, the army is an isolated institution.

"When I went up to Tennasserim, the military and their families were told to confine themselves to barracks or to their residences. This gives you an idea of how thorough the control is."

She has been quoted as saying that "the military must be preserved as a united institution." Does she still believe that?

"Of course. Without a united military, how can a nation survive? We need a military united behind the people."

But thus far, has it not been united against the people?

She hesitates for a moment. Then: "Not really. I believe that within the military are people who believe that the army should not take part in politics. And I am hopeful that they will prevail."

What she is saying, then, is that the military is already split?

"No. I am not saying that. It's possible, even within a family, to have two members disagreeing about things—one wanting to go out into the street and fight with the neighbors, and another wanting to maintain good relations. This does not mean that the family is split. One hopes cooler heads will prevail."

Family

Mention of the family brings us back to hers. We know her sons are in England, with their father.

"It's because of their schooling," she explains. "They had to return."

Did she ever consider raising them as Burmese?

She turns a bit defensive. "The system of education they have been used to is so different, that it would not be possible to pull them out and bring them home now. I think that they will have to stick with the British system. But I expect them to spend their holidays with me."

How do they feel about their mother's present life?

"The 11-year-old is too young to really understand it too well. The 15-year-old told me over the phone when I spoke to him last that he has been thinking about it and has decided it was my duty to stay and do something for my country.

"My husband feels the same way. So other than the problems which must naturally arise from my not being there to look after the family personally, there is no problem. My family has put up no stumbling blocks."

Equal to the task

We are curious. Did she ever see herself playing a political role in Burma?

She shakes her head, and when she replies, there is laughter in her voice. "Only in the sense that I thought I would have to do *something* sometime. But I envisioned it to be more in the field of writing, which is what I really do.

"I think that when I got involved, it was just that I felt I was doing what every right-thinking Burmese ought to do under the circumstances."

And she seems not in the least intimidated by the enormity of what she has taken on. She seems unruffled, serene, more than equal to the task.

"It's more a case of making oneself equal to it. Of course I can't help but think sometimes about the tremendous responsibilities I've taken on."

It means, for instance, that she can't hope to lead a normal life until all this is resolved, doesn't it?

She replies: "Ah, but then, which Burmese is living a 'normal' life now?"

Comparisons

The inevitable comparisons with Corazon Aquino and Benazir Bhutto come up—women who stand up for the progressive as opposed to the reactionary, for democracy as opposed to dictatorship; women who had been drawn into politics as a result of a tragedy in the family.

Aung San Suu Kyi agrees that the comparisons are understandable. But she thinks it has to do simply with their all being women. "The situations in our respective countries are totally different. If I had been a man, no such comparisons would be drawn."

She looks pensive. She is thinking of something else. And a moment later, she brings it up.

She is concerned, she says, about this business of a political dynasty, which is what is happening even in the democratic countries of Asia, like India, Pakistan, even the Philippines.

"I think there should be many leaders to choose from. Then the problem of 'who' would never come up."

She is referring to the fact that there is as yet no consensus among the Burmese people about who should be the leader of the opposition. Which might perhaps be why she herself has suddenly become so prominent, being acceptable to most, because of her name.

Growing legend

There are video tapes showing her progress through the provinces, where she has been going to visit the offices of her political party *(the National League for Democracy-ED.)*, to encourage its members, to talk to ordinary people about the struggle.

One sees crowds of people rushing to greet her, reaching out to touch her. One notes the expressions of worship in their eyes.

Already the legends are beginning to form around her. People talk of how, on her trips, she refuses to eat anything different from what the rest of her staff eats. Sometimes, she skips meals because of the heaviness of her work load.

Her day, according to her secretary, starts at about 7 with breakfast. She works steadily till bedtime, which is at about 9. She does not go out to parties or receptions.

At 7 in the evening, she has reading sessions with the students who have volunteered to be part of her staff. She teaches them English, reads stories to them, discusses some of her father's writings with them.

In the beginning, Thanegi says, Aung San Suu Kyi was reluctant to wave at the people from her car. "It looked too much like she was playing at being regal," she said. She had to be persuaded to do it, told that the people would love it, would treasure the memory of having been acknowledged by Aung San Suu Kyi."

SUU KYI A13

Editor's Note

From page A1

clash between NLD and government forces.

Aung San Suu Kyi was allowed to return home after medical treatment in September 2003, but was again put under house arrest. Now 62, she remains thus restricted to this day.

This piece (with minor changes) first saw print in the now defunct Sunday Times Magazine (May 21, 1989) of the MetroMedia Times Corp.

Writer Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, now vice president for public affairs of the University of the Philippines System, conducted the interview while she was preparing to leave Burma, where her husband was assigned as Unicef representative from 1984 up to March 1989.

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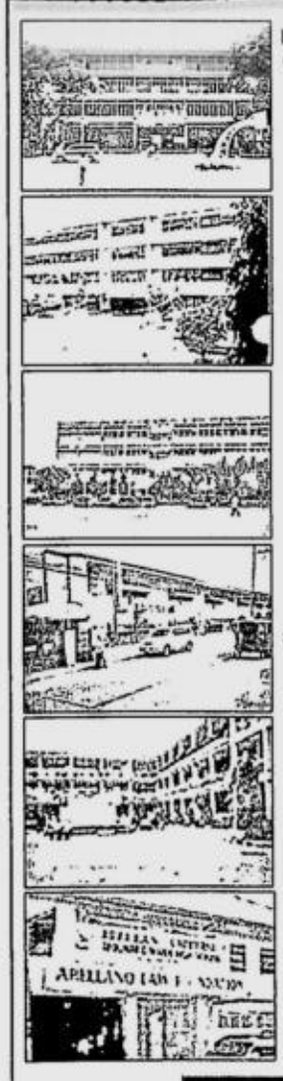

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OPINION

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Sneak defense

TWO SENATORS, WANTING TO GET TO THE BOTtom of the same issue, tackled it in different ways. The younger, Panfilo Lacson, titled his resolution (PS Res. No. 164) "Directing The Proper Committee/s of The Senate To Investigate The September 26, 2007 'Executive Session' Of The Senators Where An Uninvited Guest Allegedly Hindered The Testimony Of A Witness And The Subsequent Publication Of What Supposedly Transpired In The Said Session, With The End In View Of Amending And Strengthening The Rules Of The Senate On Executive Session." Only one of its eight "whereas" clauses mentioned the media—and only generically, as "newspaper reports."

EDITORIAL

The elder, Joker Arroyo, titled his resolution (PS Res. No. 165), more compactly: "Resolution Directing The Appropriate Committee To Look Into The Violation of Rule XLVII And/Or Other Rules Of The Rules Of The Senate On Executive Sessions During The September 26, 2007 Proceedings." Eleven out of its 13 "whereas" clauses referred to an INQUIRER article, its writer and its editors, upon whom he poured out his frustrations in a piece he wrote and this paper published (unedited and in full, as he demanded) yesterday.

So, who among the two senators is after the interests of the Senate as an institution? Who is going hammer and tongs after this paper, while studiously ignoring the real issue at hand?

In a heated moment of interpellation, Senator Arroyo dismissed Senator Lacson with the contemptuous remark, "We are not policemen here." But this is an issue that calls not for the obfuscations of a seasoned lawyer, but for the simple sleuthing of a rookie cop. What was the purpose of the executive session? To hear testimony that Romulo Neri was unwilling to divulge in public. What was alleged to have transpired in that executive session? Nothing. Then why all the fuss if nothing happened?

Because Senator Arroyo takes exception to the allegations that: Neri did not provide any testimony, going only as far as supposedly dangling the tantalizing possibility that what he knew might bring down the government; and that Neri would not, did not, could not, proceed further because a member of the Cabinet materialized in the so-called executive session.

Senator Arroyo also takes violent exception to his having been reported as the instrument by which the Arroyo administration infiltrated the executive session, thus rendering its purpose impossible. To which, a fellow senator reasonably, in effect, asks: If there was no confession, could there be a claim to the seal of the confessional?

Let us repeat: no one has ever said that Neri ever got to give his testimony, the purpose of the executive session. No one has ever claimed that anything was revealed in secret because Neri decided not to reveal anything when Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya got inside the session room, obviously ready to report to the President whatever Neri would reveal.

The issue here is that the executive session may not even have taken place, having become an impossibility after what Senator Arroyo reportedly did. Since no secrets were divulged, Senator Arroyo could have moved that the Senate tell, at the very least, who were actually in the executive session; he might even have reasonably stipulated that such revelations exclude whether or not the witness, Neri, said anything at all, knowing full well that what Neri said was not the issue.

The issue is whether or not Neri ended up saying nothing because some senator facilitated the participation of a Cabinet member.

But instead of making such a motion, Senator Arroyo wants that everyone else be punished, except himself.

The one in the dock is not the Senate, it's not the media, it's not the principles that permit the holding of executive sessions or the secrecy that should surround such proceedings. The one on the dock is not the INQUIRER's sources. It is Joker Arroyo.

Were the Senate's efforts frustrated, because a witness was possibly browbeaten on the behest of a senator?

The purpose of executive sessions or any kind of official secrecy is to maintain the security of the state, the inviolability of legitimate official communications, but never, ever, under any circumstances, to obstruct justice or to hide official wrongdoing.

So, Joker's slogan comes back to haunt him: *Kung bad ka, lagot ka.*

Let us remind him, we cannot have a country ruined by a sneak just as we cannot have a country run by a thief.

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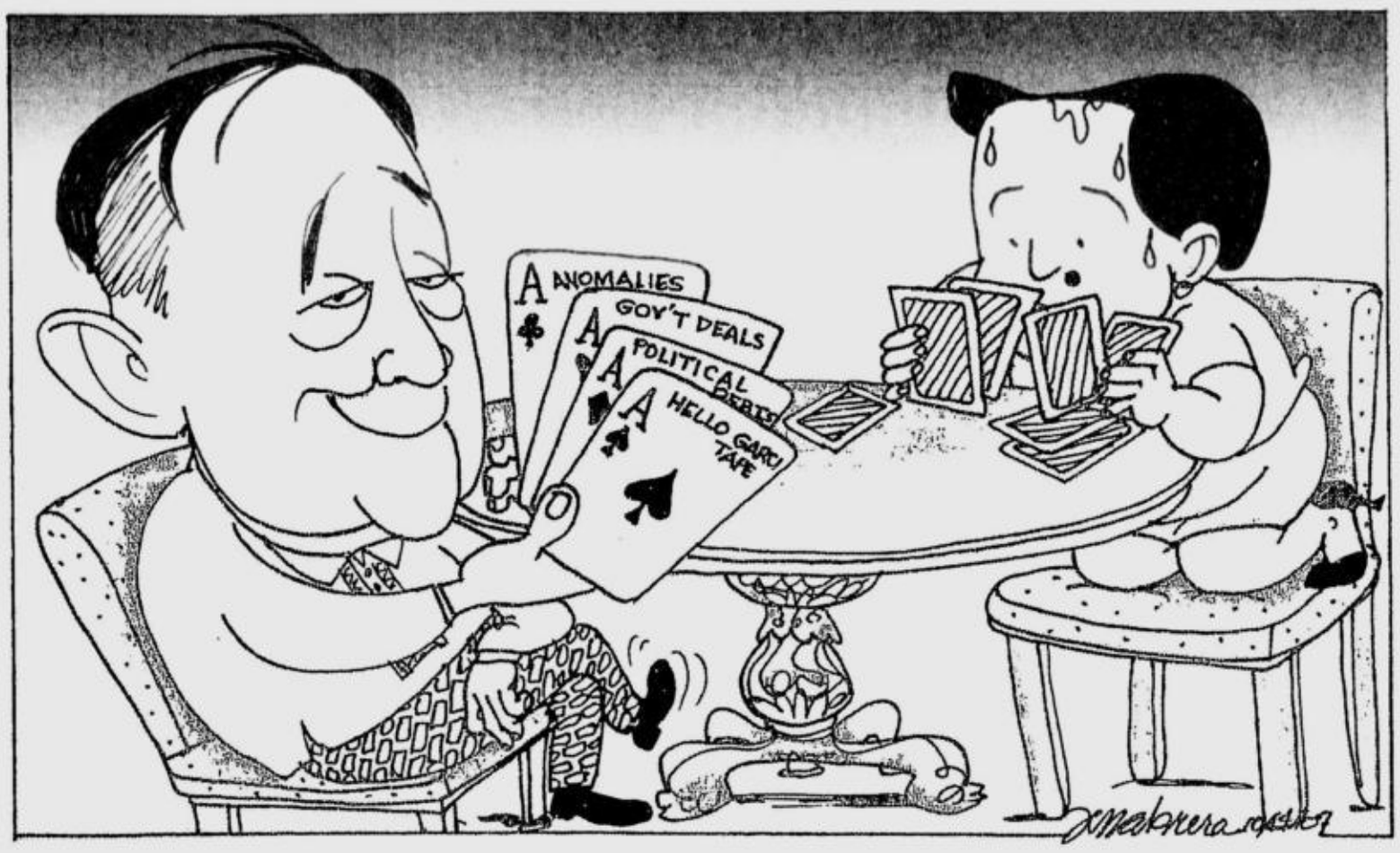


President Arroyo's 'executive privilege'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE ARE STILL pondering the question of whether they can compel Romulo Neri to talk more about his report to President Macapagal-Arroyo of Benjamin Abalos' bribe offer to him of P200 million for his support of the ZTE contract. Neri had earlier refused to do so on the ground of the President's executive privilege that Secretary Eduardo Ermita had instructed him to invoke under EO 464.

President Arroyo recently reiterated her prohibitions in the said executive order that she says is still valid. True, but its most important provisions were voided by the Supreme Court in Senate of the Philippines v. Ermita, 488 SCRA 1, reducing it to no more than a threadbare affectation. The unanimous decision held that the President could not simply invoke executive privilege as an automatic immunity but must also show, by positive proof, its urgent necessity to protect the higher interests of the nation.

Especially relevant to the current problem is the landmark case of United States v. Nixon, 418 US 863, involving the respondent's claim of executive privilege to excuse his refusal to give information required from him in the Watergate investigation. The decision declared that "neither the doctrine of separation of powers, nor the need for confidentiality of high-level communications, without more, can sustain absolute, unqualified Presidential privilege of immunity from judicial processes under all circumstances.

"The President's need for complete candor and objectivity from advisers calls for great deference from the courts. However, when the privilege depends solely on the broad undifferentiated claim of public interest in the confidentiality of such conversations, a confrontation with other values arises."

The Court categorically ruled that "absent a claim of need to protect **military, diplomatic or sensitive national security secrets**, we find it difficult to accept the argument that even the very important interest in confidentiality of Presidential conversations is significantly diminished by production of such materials for in-camera inspection with all the protection that a district court will be obliged to provide." (Emphasis supplied)

Justice Conchita Carpio Morales expressed a similar need in the Senate case as follows:

"The claim of privilege under Sec. 3 in relation to Sec. 2 (b) is thus invalid per se. It is not asserted. It is merely implied. Instead of providing precise and certain reasons for the claim, it merely invokes EO 464, coupled with an announcement that the President has not given her consent. It is woefully insufficient for Congress to determine whether the withholding of information is justified under the circumstances of each case. It **severely** frustrates the power of inquiry of Congress."

In light of this doctrine, the prohibition imposed by the remnants of EO 464 on Neri is invalid and should not terrorize him. It is "woefully insufficient" to intimidate him from cooperating with the Senate in its search for more details—that is, the whole truth—about the malodorous ZTE contract. This is a matter of public interest that the Senate has the power to investigate and the people have the right to know.

It is no less noteworthy that the information Neri is withholding is not even covered by the accepted exceptions laid down in the Nixon case. What Malacañang considers to be "confidential or classified information" was not officially discussed in a session of the Cabinet but was only divulged to GMA in a private telephone conversation she herself publicly acknowledged in a recent speech. She cannot dignify such revelation as a "sensitive security secret" under the cloak of her supposed executive privilege.

Is any conversation with the President on any subject and in any place covered by executive privilege just because she says so? Why has Ermita muzzled Neri into frightened silence if GMA has nothing to hide about the ZTE contract she has annulled precisely because it was questionable? Can Ermita evade answering this question on the specious ground of GMA's executive privilege?

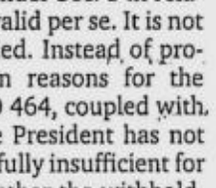
As a member of the Supreme Court, I often criticized my colleagues for their habitual deference to American decisions as if we were still a colony of the United States. I said we should be able to think for ourselves instead of relying on alien judgments as mental crutches instead of arriving at our own conclusions in light of our own insights, the traditions and even idiosyncrasies of our people, and our responsibilities as judges in our own country.

But I did not mean that we should reject all imported jurisprudence simply because they were foreign, for that would be intellectual jingoism. In fact, there are many decisions from other courts that we should not hesitate to adopt for the beauty of their language or the power of their thoughts that has made them shining nuggets of law and literature. I have quoted some of them in my *ponencias* not because they were foreign but because they were excellent.

One of such models is United States v. Nixon, which was applied in our own admirable case of Senate of the Philippines v. Ermita. I hope the Senate will bear these two cases in mind when it decides to compel—as it should—Neri's timidity into valor.

TY

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

WHAT IS THE SHORTEST AND THE BEST prayer? Take a look at the crucifix, and you will see there two letters of the alphabet: The cross is a very clear letter "T," and the body of the crucified Christ forms a letter "Y." TY!

For us Filipinos "TY" is the abbreviation of "Thank you," the shortest, and the best prayer.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 17, 11-19) Jesus cures 10 lepers; but only one of them, realizing that he has been healed, comes back to thank Him. This leads Jesus to ask the question: "Where are the other nine?" We are reminded today that, often, in nine out of 10 instances, we forget to thank God. Yes, many times we take God's blessings for granted, and we lack gratitude in our lives. Have you thanked God this morning, just for the fact that you are still alive?

* * *

Early on in life, many of us were taught by our parents to be grateful. As children we knew how to say "thank you" because of our littleness and dependence. Now that we have become adults, we sometimes forget to be grateful because of our false sense of security and independence. May we never lose humility as we travel life's road. May we always remember that all that we are, and all that we have are God's gift to us, and all of our so-called achievements and worldly acquisitions are little compared to God's providence and love.

* * *

It is hard to deal with a person who has lost his or her sense of gratitude. A "self-made person" can become very exacting and demanding unto his or her own person, and on others too, and even become quite arrogant. This happens because of pride which caused the fall of Adam and Eve, and which still causes the fall of many people. Mark this: When a person starts acting like God, he or she will, sooner or later, fall.

* * *

The greatest tragedy of our nation today is that our public servants have lost their sense of gratitude to the people who put them in power. Slowly but surely they have led us into a culture of corruption, manipulation and intimidation. If our leaders will humble themselves and turn away from their insatiable lust for money and power, then there is hope for our motherland. The way things are, money has become the bottom line for public service in our land. *Talagang pera-pera na lang* (Indeed, it's all just for the money).

* * *

Today is Indigenous Peoples' Sunday. Let us not forget and let us not lose our sense of gratitude toward our land's original occupants. Let us not also forget the original values they handed down to us as a people—honesty, simplicity, community, fear of God, courage, joy, gratitude—just to name some.

* * *

Today, it would be good for all of us to reflect on the "indigenous" values we had as children. What has happened to our innate and inborn goodness? Where is the child in you and in me now? Have we all become such proud, manipulating, cheating, greedy adults? Where have joy and humility, our sense of dependence and gratitude toward God and toward others gone?

* * *

I praise and thank God for the "Walk with God" we had from Urdaneta to Manaoag, Pangasinan last Oct. 6. About 6,000 of us walked with petitions and with gratitude in our hearts. I was doubly grateful because we had a good cloud cover all throughout the walk, and the rain came only after we had finished the walk and when we were already inside the church. For an ungrateful cynic, that wouldn't mean a thing. But for us grateful, simple believers, that meant love and blessings from above. Thank you Lord! Thank you Mama Mary!

* * *

Police Generals Abner Cabalquinto, Leopoldo Bataoil and Jeff Soriano have been religiously joining the "Walk with God" since their "colonel days." I believe that a public servant who knows how to pray learns how to be humble, and with humility comes grateful, generous and committed service.

* * *

A friend of mine, now in his 60s called up to greet his sister, Sr. Alice Lansang, ICM, on her 70th birthday. Sister Alice spent most of her life as a missionary to Brazil. She is still doing much work for poor children in Baguio. When James asked her what they are to do now that they are old, all that Sister Alice said was: "Continue loving." That's all. That's it. Yes, let us all just "continue loving." Amen.

* * *

In gratitude, allow me to share these lines of a song I made some years ago: "When I look back, and think of all the people in my life, I think of you for you're a part of my life, a special part of my life. When I recall the many phases and places in my life, I think of you for you're a part of my life, you're a special part of my life. So now, I want to thank you for your presence in my life. I want to tell you I appreciate your love. Thank you with all my heart. If I in any way have hurt you, it was never my desire. I had my faults, but God knows how much I've tried .... You're a special part of my life!"

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me not to lose my sense of gratitude, and help me to just "continue loving." Amen.

Q and A on the Comelec leadership

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

MY COLUMN LAST SUNDAY, BATTING FOR transparency in energizing the leadership of the Commission on Elections to enable it to "finally reform and automate our archaic election system, and conduct credible, speedy and peaceful elections," has elicited some interesting questions that deserve immediate answers.

Leader or jurist? Question: "Chief Justice, you said that, ideally, the Comelec chair must be a visionary leader and a great lawyer at the same time. But ideals are difficult to come by. If a choice must be made, who would be a better Comelec head: a great lawyer who is a so-so leader, or a visionary leader who is not so great a lawyer?"

Answer: The latter. I think that, more than anything, the Comelec needs a leader (not just a manager) who will relentlessly pursue a clear vision and mission, and show, by personal example, the values of integrity, independence, transparency, accountability, probity and competence.

Mainly, the Comelec is mandated to "enforce and administer" all election laws. Now, the enforcement of these laws demands innovative leadership, executive ability and InfoTech know-how, and not necessarily deliberative or legal skills. In fact, the chief executive of our country, the president, is not even required to be a lawyer. Note also that I titled my last column "Choosing credible Comelec **leaders**," not "Comelec jurists."

Of course, the President is assisted by a phalanx of lawyers—notably, the secretary of justice, the presidential legal counsel and the solicitor general—who were chosen for their presumed legal acumen. Similarly, the Comelec chair should be complemented by commissioners who are well versed in election law to enable the poll body to perform its judicial functions credibly.

Many years ago, the legal credentials of Christian Monsod were challenged, on the ground that he did not actively practise law as required by the Constitution. Liberally interpreting the catchwords "practice of law," the Supreme Court held that his legal management experience was sufficient to qualify him as Comelec chair. Though heavily criticized by the bar and the academe, this hairline 8-to-7 decision was vindicated, because Monsod—assisted by some commissioners cum legal eagles, notably Haydee Yorac—showed adroit executive skill in conducting honest, orderly and peaceful elections during his watch.

Ban on reappointments. Question: "Why does the Constitution ban reappointments?" Answer: The prohibition, whether to the same post of commissioner or to the higher position of chair, is designed to assure the independence and integrity of the Comelec. Commissioners, who aspire for reappointment or, worse, for promotion to the chairmanship, are vulnerable to the partisan wiles of the president (who holds the power to appoint) and of the members of the Commission on Appointments (which wields the authority to confirm appointments).

Question: "Why do appointees serve only the unused portion of a term, not the entire seven years provided by the Constitution?" Answer: In "Gaminde vs Commission on Audit" (Dec. 13, 2000), the Supreme Court said that an appointee may sit only for the "unexpired balance of the term" of the predecessor to preserve the "two-year interval between the expiration of terms."

The 1987 Constitution states that of the seven Comelec commissioners to be **first** appointed, "three Members shall hold office for seven years, two Members for five years, and the last for three years." Thereafter, every new member would have a seven-year term. The Court wanted to maintain the two-year interval in the terms of the seven commissioners. In this way, the president, who normally serves only six years, will not be able to anoint all seven members; again, to safeguard the poll body's independence.

However, President Macapagal-Arroyo became an exception because, by a constitutional quirk, she would be able to serve a total of nine and a half years—three and half (January 2001 to June 2004) as the successor to the unexpired term of President Joseph Estrada, and six (July 2004 to June 2010) as elected President. Consequently, she would be able to appoint all seven Comelec members.

* * *

Barangay elections. I believe that GMA was ill advised in proposing the postponement of the barangay elections, scheduled on Oct. 29, 2007, to August 2008. In "David vs Comelec" (April 8, 1997), the high court unanimously struck down two petitions to defer the holding of the barangay elections scheduled on May 12, 1997. It described the petitions as "subtle but nonetheless self-serving propositions to lengthen governance without a mandate from the governed."

The proposed postponement would have allowed the incumbent barangay officials to hold office longer than the terms of the president, senators, representatives, governors and mayors. Worse, all the Sangguniang Kabataan elected in 2002 would be over-aged by August 2008. Finally, what will happen to the millions that the Comelec has already spent in preparing for the elections? By scuttling the postponement, the Senate may have saved GMA from another splitting legal headache.

* * *

Some readers, who may not have noticed the erratum published by the INQUIRER on Oct. 8, are still writing me about a little inadvertent error in this space last Sunday. To reiterate, the word **"Comelec"** in the second sentence of the fourth paragraph of the column should have read **"Commission on Appointments."**

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Getting shot

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN 2005, DURING THE INAUGURAL SCIENTIFIC Meeting of the Asia Oceania (research organization on) Genital and Infectious and Neoplasia (AOGIN), the talk was, which among the many alternative forms of cervical cancer screening was most safe and cost-effective.

True, there were also talks on the possible application of a "prophylactic" (protective or preventive) vaccine against the human papilloma virus, specific types of which have been found directly linked to cervical cancer. Clinical trials were then being conducted around the world (the Philippines included), and the results were very, very promising. But at that time, HPV vaccines, with two multinational drug firms in the forefront of research and development, were but a glimmer in the eye of all those involved in research, treatment, prevention and advocacy of issues around cervical cancer. The stakes were incredibly high. Although breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, in the Philippines at least, cervical cancer kills more, mainly because the great majority of fatalities see their doctors when it is too late.

If a vaccine could be developed which prevents infection with HPV, which has been linked with 97 percent of all cervical cancer cases, would that not dramatically bring down the number of cervical cancer deaths? Yes, it potentially could, but because of many issues, mainly economic, we just can't say that yet in the Third World setting, where the Philippines firmly belongs.

But still, women the world over have good reason to celebrate the development of an HPV vaccine. And Filipino women are among them, because the HPV vaccine is here.

* * *

THE HPV vaccine is marketed in the Philippines under two brands: Gardasil, marketed by Merck Sharp and Dohme; and Cervarix, marketed by GlaxoSmithKline. The two vaccines differ slightly but essentially target specific types of the HPV, types 16 and 18, especially which have been identified as causing the majority of cervical cancer cases.

One difference between the two brands is that, while Gardasil is recommended for young girls (in the United States, the recommended minimum age is 9 years) and women (until the mid-20s), Cervarix is recommended for girls and women "10 years and over."

All this is by way of explaining why this week I found myself with my daughter taking my first HPV vaccine shot. (HPV vaccines are given in three injections over six months.) Ian Frazier, who led the team in Australia that developed the vaccine, says the reason they recommend the vaccine for girls and young women is because "your immune system works best while you're young." But HPV infection can take place at any time in a woman's life, and doctors at the Cervarix launch said that the vaccine is also helpful in preventing "repeat infections," since it is persistent infection that clinicians look out for when treating women at risk of cervical cancer.

Before the shots were administered, my daughter and I were first asked to fill out a form. One question asked was: "Did you have any reaction from the last time you had a vaccine?" My daughter nudged me: "Yes I had a reaction, I was freaked out!"

Indeed, I was a little apprehensive, too, since it had been decades since I last had an injection. Despite the passing of the years—I am way over 10 years old—memories of the childhood ritual of lining up for vaccination shots came rushing in on a wave of flashbacks.

* * *

WELL, as you may know by now, I survived. The temporary pain (I still feel a lingering ache in my arm) was a small price to pay, first, for getting my daughter to a doctor and getting her protected from future HPV infection and, therefore, from cervical cancer; and second, for supporting (and rewarding) the efforts of all those researchers, scientists, immunologists, clinicians and women participants in the clinical trials, who devoted years of their lives to developing this first vaccine against a form of cancer.

In an ideal world, all girls and young women (and older women, too!) in this country would be vaccinated against the HPV, and therefore saved from death or else debilitating illness. But for now the vaccines are a trite expensive—around P18,000 for the three shots—and this means they're essentially out of reach for the average Pinay.

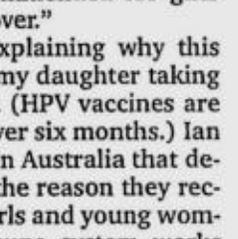
Then again, ranged against other "priorities" in life, cell phones in particular, the expense for an HPV vaccination—and for vaccines in general—should be eminently justifiable. As Frazier observed, the development of a therapeutic vaccine (when infection has occurred) against HPV is still about a decade away. If you can't afford a vaccine just yet, just go to your nearest health center for a pap smear or a VIA, which is a cheaper, faster screening test. Better safe than sorry, is all I can say!

* * *

DR. Marvie Abesamis, who is a TOWNS awardee for medicine (don't ask me what year), sent this invitation to parents of children who have died of cancer. She will be conducting a "Banyuhay Camp," to help them deal with issues of healing and bereavement from Oct. 19-21 at the Sierra Madre Resort, Tanay, Rizal. On Nov. 3-5, Marvie and Millie Kilayko, another TOWNS awardee, have organized a "Suntown Camp" in Talisay City in Negros Occidental, for children with cancer and children whose parents are struggling with cancer. Of the latter group, Marvie writes: "You see, no one is taking care of the issues and needs of these vulnerable children with a parent who has cancer."

Marvie herself has happy news to share. She was recently named "Most Outstanding Oncologist" by the Philippine Society of Oncology, an honor she well deserves not just for her medical work, but also for her abiding compassion for her patients and their families.

An inconvenient Peace Prize



WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg

THIS YEAR'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE JUSTLY REwards the thousands of scientists of the United Nations Climate Change Panel (the IPCC). These scientists are engaged in excellent, painstaking work that establishes exactly what the world should expect from climate change.

The other award winner, former US Vice President Al Gore, has spent much more time telling us what to fear. While the IPCC's estimates and conclusions are grounded in careful study, Gore doesn't seem to be similarly restrained.

Gore told the world in his Academy Award-winning movie (recently labeled "one-sided" and containing "scientific errors" by a British judge) to expect 20-foot sea-level rises over this century. He ignores the findings of his Nobel co-winners, the IPCC, who have concluded that sea levels will rise between only a half-foot and two feet over this century, with their best expectation being about one foot. That's similar to what the world experienced over the past 150 years.

Likewise, Gore agonizes over the accelerated melting of ice in Greenland and what it means for the planet, but overlooks the IPCC's conclusion that, if sustained, the current rate of melting would add just three inches to the sea level rise by the end of the century. Gore also takes no notice of research showing that Greenland's temperatures were higher in 1941 than they are today.

Gore also frets about the future of polar bears. He claims they are drowning as their icy habitat disappears. However, the only scientific study showing any such thing indicates that four polar bears had drowned because of a storm.

The politician-turned-movie maker loses sleep over a predicted rise in heat-related deaths. There's another side of the story that's inconvenient to mention: rising temperatures will reduce the number of cold spells, which are a much bigger killer than heat. The best study shows that by 2050, heat will claim 400,000 more lives, but 1.8 million fewer will die because of cold. Indeed, according to the first complete survey of the economic effects of climate change for the world, global warming will actually save lives.

The IPCC has magnanimously declared that it would have been happy if Gore had received the Nobel Peace prize alone. I am glad that he did not, and that the IPCC's work has rightfully been acknowledged.

Gore has helped the world to worry. Unfortunately, our attention is diverted from where it matters. Climate change is not the only problem facing the globe. Our blinkered focus on it—to the detriment of other planetary challenges—will only be heightened by the attention generated by Gore's Nobel Peace Prize.

Gore concentrates above all else on his call for world leaders to cut CO2 emissions, yet there are other policies that would do much more for the planet. Over the coming century, developing nations will be increasingly dependent on food imports from developed countries. This is not primarily a result of global warming, but a consequence of more people and less arable land in the developing world.

The number of hungry people depends much less on the climate than on the demographics and income. Extremely expensive cuts in carbon emissions could mean more malnourished people. If our goal is to fight malnutrition, policies like getting nutrients to those who need them are 5,000 times more effective at saving lives than spending billions of dollars cutting carbon emissions.

Likewise, global warming will probably slightly increase malaria, but CO2 reductions will be far less effective at fighting this disease than mosquito nets and medication, which can cheaply save 850,000 lives every year. By contrast, the expensive Kyoto Protocol will prevent just 1,400 deaths from malaria each year.

While we worry about the far-off effects of climate change, we do nothing to deal with issues facing the planet today. This year, malnutrition will kill almost four million people. Three million lives will be lost to HIV/AIDS. Two and a half million people will die because of indoor and outdoor air pollution. A lack of micronutrients and clean drinking water will claim two million lives each.

With attention and money in scarce supply, what matters is that we first tackle the problems with the best solutions, doing the most good throughout the century. If we focus on solving today's problems, we will leave communities strengthened, economies more vibrant and infrastructures more robust. This will enable these societies to deal much better with future problems—including global warming. Committing to massive cuts in carbon emissions will leave future generations poorer and less able to adapt to challenges.

Gore has an unshakable faith that climate change is the biggest challenge facing the world. To be fair, he deserves some form of recognition for his resolute passion. However, the contrast between this year's Nobel winners could not be sharper. The IPCC engages in meticulous research where facts rule over everything else. Gore has a very different approach. ***Project Syndicate***

Bjorn Lomborg is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, adjunct professor at the Copenhagen Business School and author of "Cool It" and "The Skeptical Environmentalist."

RP's bond with India

COMMENTARY

Jozon A. Lorenzana

A 2007 GLOBAL SURVEY COMMISSIONED BY THE BBC World Service reports that Filipinos are divided (33 percent positive; 32 percent negative) on the influence of India in the world. The current scores are an improvement from the previous year, where 57 percent of the sample expressed mostly negative views. This piece of information, along with the stereotypes we have of India (poverty) and Indians (money lenders), indicates our ambivalent attitude toward them. I would like to think that this attitude is caused more by ignorance of our connections with India, both past and present.

At a time when ethnic and religious divisions and violence are on the rise, there is a need to affirm relations between cultures of nations. Filipinos cannot ignore India, not only because of its growing economic and political influence, but because we have ties—albeit limited—in the past and we now share common issues as former colonies of English-speaking empires, and as democracies in Asia whose biggest challenge is reducing poverty. Awareness of these connections from both sides is a way to work together toward a mutually beneficial future.

Indologist Juan Francisco argued that pre-colonial Philippines had remote links with Hindu-Buddhist cultures; in contrast, some Southeast Asian countries like Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand had greater contact with ancient India because of their proximity. Citing Francisco, anthropologist Fernando Zialcita, pointed out that Hindu and Buddhist influence in the Philippines filtered through the Sri Vijaya empire (650-1377 A.D.) of present-day Sumatra (Indonesia) to Mindanao and the Visayan islands. Maritime trade and traffic facilitated the exchange of goods and ideas between the peoples of the Vijaya empire and our islands. In 1987, Francisco reviewed theories and evidence that suggested Hindu-Buddhist influence in pre-colonial Philippines. These included language, folklore, scripts and artifacts.

Artifacts relating to Hindu influences are scant. Francisco mentioned only five in his review: the Golden Tara of Agusan (either a female deity or a queen of one of the Buddhas) found by the bank of the Wawa river after a flood in 1917; the Clay Votive Tablet (with traces of a lotus, an icon associated with Hinduism) dug in a 14th-15th century graveyard in Calatagan, Batangas; the Bronze Avalokitesvara (a Boddhisattva in the Buddhist pantheon) and the Bronze Ganesa (Hindu god with an elephant head) from Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Manila; and the Golden Garuda (a divine bird and vehicle of the Hindu god Vishnu). Francisco, however, cautioned that these findings still do not indicate strong evidence of the prevalence and practice of Hinduism in the islands during pre-colonial times.

Filipino words of Sanskrit origin, however, give a clearer example of the Hindu influence. Francisco observed that the range of these words included in our languages is broad. To name a few: onion is *lasuna* in Ilocano, *lasun* in Sanskrit; face is *mukha* in Filipino, and Sanskrit's *mukha* means mouth, face or countenance; silk is *sutra* in Tausog, and Sanskrit's *sutra* means thread or string. During a two-year stay in Delhi, I learned Hindi verbs and adjectives that were very familiar: *likha*in both Tagalog and Hindi means "to write"; and *dukha* in Filipino means "poor" or "destitute," in Hindi, it means "sorrow."

Early this year the Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University mounted an exhibit of ancient Filipino language and scripts based on the works of Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera (1857-1925), a Filipino scholar and statesman. His well-cited work "El Sancrito en la lengua Tagalog" (1887), also consulted by Juan Francisco, listed and defined Tagalog words that were borrowed from Sanskrit. Comparing Chinese and Sanskrit "loan" words, Pardo de Tavera noted that "while Chinese influence on Tagalog is apparent in the vocabulary of food and commerce, it is not evident in political, religious and intellectual life .... Sanskrit words adopted into Tagalog are those signifying intellectual acts, moral operations, passions, superstitions, names of deities, planets, higher numerals, botany, war and its outcomes and vicissitudes." One could not help but think of the following words: *aral, mahal, budhi, mamaya, asa, hari, bahagi*, etc. If language is constitutive of culture and shapes our ways of thinking and feeling, perhaps it would be safe to assume that sharing with the Indians the same words that refer to the metaphysical can possibly spark a connection.

Looking again at our histories, the colonization of the Philippines by the United States and of India by the United Kingdom—notwithstanding its adverse consequences—actually brought our nations closer. This connection is through a foreign language that we share—English. Our knowledge of English has provided more job opportunities in the service sector like business process outsourcing (BPOs or call centers), where our countries compete and recently complement each other's strengths and limitations, to (ironically) service UK and US companies. India has the vast manpower and infrastructure; while we have the special skills and knowledge (e.g., accounting processes) that directly cater to US companies, a big chunk of BPO market. As early as 2005, Indian companies, through the efforts of the Philippine diplomatic mission in New Delhi, have been setting up joint ventures with Filipino companies.

Our connections now even go beyond trade. As both pioneer democracies in Asia, we also have much to share about governance and poverty alleviation. Filipinos could learn from the maturity of India's party system and the independence and efficiency of its election commission. Indians have developed their own electronic voting machines that have ensured the credibility of their elections. The general elections of 2004 attested that Indian voters have the power to change governments. By installing a coalition with a secular and pro-poor platform into power and removing a hugely middle-class supported Right-wing coalition, Indian voters proved that democracy is the rule of the majority. Conversely, India could learn from Gawad Kalinga, a housing project for the homeless and displaced, which has demonstrated how collaboration between different sectors (business, local government, church) in society and active citizenship could improve the lives of the poor.

While our connection with India in the past seems remote, our present circumstances suggest many opportunities to work together in addressing common issues developing countries like ours face, such as improving trade and the plight of the poor through good governance and citizens' participation. Indeed, there has to be a future with India.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Crackdown in Burma

PROTESTS IN BURMA BEGAN IN MID-AUGUST WHEN THE MILITARY JUNTA RAISED FUEL PRICES THAT JACKED UP the cost of basic commodities. Inspired by thousands of monks who poured into the streets, the protests grew and spread across the country. On Sept. 26, some 100,000 people marched through Rangoon, the country's biggest city and former capital. They were demanding the lowering of consumer prices, release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners, and national reconciliation.

Rejecting the demands, the junta mounted a violent crackdown. Monasteries were raided and hundreds of monks were arrested. In the Sept. 26-27 crackdown alone, more than 200 people died and nearly 6,000 were detained, according to dissident groups. The junta says 10 people were killed and 2,100 were detained.

The world was outraged. Rallies were staged in Asian, European and North American cities and some leaders called for fresh sanctions against the Burmese regime. Other measures may have to be taken to help the Burmese people gain freedom from the military junta. –*Ed*

BUDDHIST MONKS staged protest marches in at least two cities, including Rangoon and Sittwe, in Burma on Sept. 18, the day a reported religious boycott of members of the ruling military junta and their associates was due to start. REUTERS

(*Editor's Note:* Following is a first-hand account of a Filipino who was in Rangoon during the violent dispersal of Buddhist monks and other prodemocracy activists by the Burmese military. The author is using a pseudonym for security reasons.)

By B. Drohi

IT WAS A SUNDAY AFTERNOON WHEN I ARRIVED IN RANGOON, Burma last month for what was supposed to be a month-long stay. I knew back then that a protest movement was on the rise in the military-ruled country, spurred by a sharp increase in fuel prices last August. That was one of the reasons that got me excited about the trip. Little did I know that things would become much worse than what I had hoped for.

I left my loved ones in the Philippines, saying that I was going to Burma to do some "soul-searching" and to engage in a time of "self-discovery and reflection." Actually, I just wanted to see the place and find out about life there. Having talked to a relative who recently visited the Golden Land, and seeing how much he has changed since the trip, it was easy to come to a decision when the opportunity to go there presented itself.

Rangoon is a beautiful place, with abundant trees and large parks. Sure, a lot of the buildings are dilapidated and the cars and taxis look at least 30 years old, but the city still has a certain charm that I cannot put into words. It's kind of like traveling back in time to a land where people in colorful tie-dye shirts and huge peace sign pendants could have lived in.

Traditional garment

But in Rangoon people are mostly in *longyi*, the traditional skirt-like garment worn by men and women alike. Only around 10 percent wear trousers. The Burmese look a lot like Filipinos, and it is very easy to be mistaken for a local when you are there. And they seem to be a content people. Theirs is a very kind race, always ready to greet you with a smile.

The first few days of my stay was marked by continuous rains, which prevented me from going out and exploring the city. I was able to go out only a couple of times to have dinner and get some groceries.

Near the end of my first week in the country, the weather cleared a bit, and I was able to take a walk up to nearby Inya Lake, the largest lake in Rangoon. On the way there, I passed by a part of Rangoon University. Once a hotbed of student protests, the university has been shut down by the government since the 1990s for fear of a repeat of the massive uprising in 1988.

A Filipino, who resided in Rangoon, told me that it was about four times the size of UP Diliman. It used to be known as one of the the most prestigious universities in Southeast Asia in the 1950s, attracting students from all over the region. Now, it is nothing more than a cluster of mossy buildings, while undergraduates get their degrees even without leaving their houses through distance education programs.

My first Catholic Mass outside the Philippines came on my second Sunday there. That morning, talk of a long line of protesting monks marching on the streets of downtown Rangoon was spreading. Apparently, they were demanding an apology from the government for killing one of their own in a protest action against fuel price increases earlier that month.

The following day would mark what would probably be the most awesome thing I saw during my stay in Burma. On the way home from the grocery store, I ran into a group of about 500 marching monks near Shwedagon Pagoda, which was considered the holiest temple in all of Burma. I was inside a taxi, and it took quite some time until I saw the end of that line. And I thought that was huge.

Massive rally

It was only the next day that I found out about a gathering of about 100,000 civilians in downtown Rangoon, calling for an end to the 45-year military dictatorship. On that day, too, I saw soldiers blocking the road to the house of the National League of Democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

Shwedagon Pagoda, which was about a 25-minute walk from where I stayed, was the one place I had hoped to see while I was in Rangoon. Sadly, I was never able to do so. When the weather allowed me a trip to the place, the authorities didn't. They closed it down because it was where protesters gathered before marching downtown.

Later that week, all hell broke loose. Soldiers opened fire on protesters, killing 10, according to the state media, but dissidents put the number of deaths in the hundreds. Witnesses of the violent dispersal said the bodies were immediately dragged off so it was impossible to come up with an exact number of casualties. Later, it was found out that the bodies were burned (some were said to be still alive) so as to leave no trace of the protesters.

Another Burmese I talked to said that a relative of hers saw yet another abhorrent act by the authorities in Shwedagon Pagoda the day before soldiers shot at protesters. She said security forces at the pagoda told the monks there that they may sit down and express their grievances peacefully. When the monks did, the soldiers started beating them up.

Arrests

Also during that week, the military ransacked monasteries under cover of darkness and arrested hundreds of monks. Public Internet access was cut off due to numerous photos of the dispersals leaking out.

Finally, I decided to cut my stay short. All these events prevented me from doing what I came for, anyway. Most of my stay in Burma was spent inside my house, watching DVDs and reading copies of the New Light of Myanmar, a government mouthpiece which contains mostly propaganda and a few items from the Internet. I remember a headline in that paper that said the recent protests were instigated by Westerners who were "jealous of national development and stability." Since then, I have taken to calling it the New Lie of Myanmar.

At least, I told myself before leaving, I can take action when I'm already outside the country. I can tell others of the plight of the Burmese people, who have been largely ignored since the last major uprising 19 years ago.

Burma is a country abundant in natural resources, from oil to timber to precious stones. Yet some have dubbed it "the Africa of Asia" because of widespread poverty. Thirty percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Most people live on less than $1 a day. This continues to happen while neighboring countries like China benefit from the country's natural resources.

PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

The video of the wedding of Senior General Than Shwe's daughter, which can be viewed on the Internet, shows the bride lavishly decorated in diamonds and gemstones and receiving gifts that reportedly amounted to a whopping $50 million. Yet the government spends nearly nothing on health care and social services. They spend less than $3 on health care per person per year, when according to experts, the ideal amount is $40. One out of every 10 children living in Burma will never live to see his or her fifth birthday.

Forced labor

Forced labor is rampant in Burma. Men are forced to work on roads and infrastructure for more than 10 hours a day for nothing more than meal money. Child trafficking and prostitution are also a big problem in the country.

Press freedom is nonexistent in Burma. All the newspapers and radio and television stations are controlled by the government. To add to that, public Internet access is screened. Users are prevented from accessing free e-mail services as well as international news agency websites like CNN and BBC. It is true that you can find out more about events in Burma when you are outside the country.

And, of course, human rights abuse is nothing new in Burma. People, including monks, have been either beaten up or killed for peacefully fighting for their rights.

The situation may have calmed down in Rangoon, and Burma isn't the news anymore these past few days. But now is not the time to forget about the atrocities of the military junta against its own people. Now is the time to continue to apply pressure on them. Their actions are unnecessary and unacceptable. The protesters were only armed with banners; the monks didn't even have footwear.

This is also a time to pressure countries like China who continue to rely on Burma for access to valuable natural resources. All this time, China has turned a blind eye to the violent acts of the junta because it benefits while the junta stays in power. If a boycott of the 2008 Beijing Olympics is what is needed for China to start caring about the situation, then by all means do it.

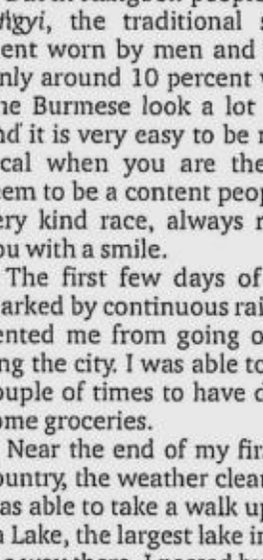
It is really frustrating to think that a country as rich as Burma has to suffer like this from a handful of greedy despots. Had their natural resources been handled better, they could have easily been more developed than their neighbors. The Burmese people have gone through enough hardships. And they do not deserve the treatment they are getting. This has to end now.

Fast facts

Capital:	Naypyidaw
Largest city:	Rangoon (Yangon)
Government:	Military junta
Number of ethnic groups:	135. The Burmese are the dominant group, accounting for 68 percent of the population.
Total area:	678,500 sq km
Population:	56.5 million (2006)
GDP per capita:	$1,800 (2006)
Religion:	Buddhist 89%, Christian 4%, Muslim 4%, animist 1%, other 2%
Literacy:	89.9%

INQUIRER RESEARCH

Key players

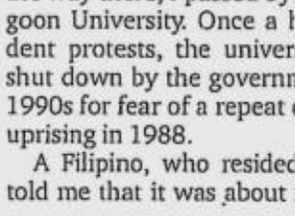


Senior General Than Shwe, 74 *Head of the State Peace and Development Council*

Born in central Burma in February 1933, General Than Shwe worked as a postal clerk before joining the army in 1953. He rose through the ranks to become military supremo with the official title "Senior General" in 1992 after his predecessor, General Saw Maung, retired for health reasons.

A firm hardliner and nationalist, he is vehemently opposed to negotiations with the democracy movement led by Aung San Suu Kyi and is said to despise her with such passion that his aides are forbidden to mention her name in his presence.

His image took a blow last year when a video footage of an extravagant wedding for his daughter raised questions about the lifestyles of military rulers in the country.

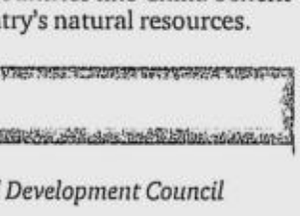


Deputy Senior General Maung Aye, 69 *The No. 2 in the junta*

His reputation is more ruthless than General Than Shwe's, probably because he has more combat experience from fighting ethnic rebels.

Stories abound that the two leaders are more rivals than friends. But one thing they have in common is a loathing for Aung San Suu Kyi. Gen. Maung Aye is believed to have been behind the 2003 attack on Suu Kyi's convoy when she was making a political trip to northern Burma from which she barely escaped.

Aung San Suu Kyi, 62 *Leader of the National League for Democracy*



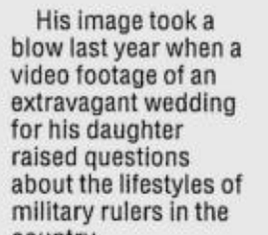
Her supporters call her "The Lady" and regard her with a reverence that the regime has never been able to reduce, despite regularly denouncing her as a tool of foreign powers.

Aung San Suu Kyi is the daughter of General Aung San, Burma's assassinated independence hero. She entered politics in 1988 and was put under house arrest on July 20, 1989.

In 1990, the junta called for a general election in which her party, the National League for Democracy, won decisively. The results were nullified, and the military refused to hand over power.

She is the world's only detained Nobel Peace Prize laureate, having spent 12 of the past 18 years in various forms of custody.

Buddhist clergy



Buddhist monks are widely respected in Burma and have a long history of joining the country's political struggles, from the fight against British colonial rule to the prodemocracy uprising in 1988 which was crushed by the junta.

Burma's monks form the only institution of comparable size and organization to the army.

Ordination as a monk, at least for a short period, is a religious duty for young men and a way for them to honor the sacrifices of their parents.

In the latest protest, a group calling itself the All Burma Monks Alliance has come out openly to challenge the ruling junta. ***Asia News Network***

Stock market pays for experts, amateurs

From page A1

a market trending upward], you can easily double or triple your money," he said.

Go was able to repair portions of the family home and is also saving some of his profits for his dream wedding.

The profits racked up by Dytoc, 38, another former stockbroker, have risen 50 percent from the beginning of the year. He is using a large chunk of these to build a fund for his two daughters and plowing the rest into a bakery business.

"There are a lot of opportunities in the market. You just need the right tools, the right knowledge and good timing," said Dytoc.

Specialist knowledge

Go and Dytoc's tools of the trade are primarily stock charts. They spend hours looking at charts to spot particular issues that they can buy. When a stock they bought hits their target price, they sell at a profit and move on to another stock.

Another secret weapon is their specialist knowledge of "technical analysis" of the financial markets.

Technical analysis consists in the study of past stock prices, manifested in stock charts, to spot major trends and anticipate upward movements in certain stocks. Based on the patterns made, they choose which stock to buy and at what price and when to sell for a profit.

This is opposed to the "fundamental analysis" of the market which gives primacy to the value of a company relative to its current stock price. If the value is high and the market price is low at any point, adherents of fundamentals believe that is a good time to buy.

Go and Dytoc eschew "fundamentals" when they trade in stocks.

"You need to be adept in accounting and finance to crunch the numbers needed for fundamental analysis. And when you are done with your computations, the stock has already moved," said Dytoc.

Both Go and Dytoc believe that anyone can learn to trade using technical analysis and make a profit, or at least make sure they don't lose all their money.

"Trading the stock market isn't that difficult. It's not rocket science. You just need a plan and you need to stick to your plan," Go said.

Ordinary mortals

Indeed, the bull market has made instant big shots of ordinary investors who may not have the specialist knowledge of Go and Dytoc.

Claire, 50, of Bulacan, recalls scoring her first win in 1993 when she bought and sold stocks of Benpres Holdings Corp., a company in the Lopez group which is engaged in power generation and distribution, broadcasting, telecommunications and infrastructure development.

The period from 1993 to 1997 before the Asian financial crisis struck, is remembered for the economic reforms and burgeoning property sector that supported a stock market bull run.

Claire, a chief accountant at a major paper firm at the time, bought Benpres at the initial public offer (IPO) price of P3, which after a few days shot up to P12 apiece. She sold at P10 and celebrated her birthday with a trip to Singapore with her mother.

Encouraged by her gains, Claire was later lured to speculative mining stocks that earned her the monicker "garbage queen."

"I was holding mining stocks whose prices would increase by 50 percent in 15 minutes which earned me a quick P35,000," she said.

Speculative stocks rise fast on rumors that, say, they will hit a certain price at a particular point. Mining stocks fall under this category since investors bet on them on the promise of earnings from future production.

Between 1993 and 1997, Claire bought shares of manufacturing firm Global Equities Inc., which recently converted into a mining venture, Geograce Resources Phils.

Just after the May elections, the stock market started to rise and with it another opportunity for Claire to earn big.

She had all but forgotten about her Geograce shares when she got a text from her broker.

"The broker said I was entitled to stock rights [or the right to subscribe to more shares in a publicly listed company] but since they couldn't get in touch with me the broker sold my shares. I gained more than P1 million from that sale. My only investment in Geo was about P70,000 in the 1990s," Claire said.

Her gains from stock investments altered Claire's life dramatically. They funded vacations in the US, partly paid for a house and lot in Bulacan and a condominium in the US, as well as the acquisition of agricultural land and several real-estate foreclosed assets here. She resigned from her job in 2001 and is on the way to a comfortable retirement.

Jerry Angping, now a successful stockbroker, made his first million from the market in 1975 when he was only 21 and just graduated from college. He was able to buy a house in an exclusive village. Subsequent profits partly funded Angping's post-graduate studies at Harvard.

Reena, 30, of Quezon City has also made a modest fortune from her Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) stocks which she bought at P300 a share in 2002 and later sold at P950.

Greed burns

Her winnings were able to partly pay for her purchase of "Pumpkin," the name she gave her orange Toyota Vios.

Reena's strategy adheres to the stock market saying that bulls and bears can make money in the market but pigs, a symbol of greed, get slaughtered.

Reena is a long-term investor, she does not sell right away when the price moves up.

"I'll only liquidate when I need the money or when I hear that the market will go down. If it's a temporary decline, I'll hold on to it," Reena said.

Claire said many players get "burned" because of greed by buying stocks worth more than they can afford, called playing on margin accounts, thereby ending up heavily in debt.

"If the stock market reaches an all-time high, it's time to sell. Or it might correct and break another all-time high. It means the blue chips are gaining and you have to look for second-liners which have not yet gone up. You can also look for speculative shares which are already above their par values," she said.

Go and Dytoc, who two years ago started teaching technical analysis to interested traders as a way of giving back, say that greed and hope are powerful emotions that one needs to control when playing the market.

They have seen traders hold on to stocks hoping their profits would increase, only to see their profits wiped out when the market turned.

Despite the stock market's breaching all-time highs recently, some lament that only a small share of the population is able to profit from it.

According to Asian Development Bank 2005 data, only 600,000, or roughly 0.7 percent of the country's 87 million population, invest in the stock market.

The PSE has said it will intensify its education campaign to entice more local investors into the market.

Go notes that most market players come from the A and B classes.

"We should be penetrating the C class. Can you imagine how vibrant our market would be if taxi drivers, tricycle drivers and market vendors join in?" he said.

Suu Kyi is her father's ...

From page A8

In one beach town, she was so hot and tired, she thought it would be nice to go swimming, and her staff tried to get a little privacy for her by asking people to please leave the yard of the house in which she was staying.

Loss of private life

They did, but only to squat outside the garden, lining the path leading to the beach.

In the end, she was unable to swim. Fortunately, there was no moon, so late at night, she managed to go for a walk without being followed.

In the Kayah state, a Christian band of old men escorted her into a town, marching slowly down the street to the tune of "Hail to the Chief," played none too competently. And she had to march in step behind them, which for someone used to taking brisk strides, was extremely awkward.

It is perhaps this loss of her private life that has made her wary of discussing her personal affairs with the press. She must want to guard from prying eyes what little is left.

So back to politics.

Is she optimistic about the elections?

An ironic note becomes apparent. "It is difficult to see how 'fair and free' they can be. It is difficult to talk to the government about anything."

"When I was going to the Irrawaddy Division, I asked to speak to the secretary of the Law and Order Restoration Council, because we had anticipated that the local official would react in exactly the way that he reacted."

She is referring to a trip which she took early January to campaign for the NLD, the party of which she is secretary general. Several party members were harassed; some were arrested. After she had left, some houses of members and sympathizers mysteriously caught fire.

"But he refused to talk to me, saying that he couldn't be expected to talk to all the people from all the political parties," she says.

"I thought that was not very statesmanlike of him. Where the government refuses to meet with opposition leaders, how can we be sure of anything? This inability to carry on a dialogue is a great pity.

"During my mother's funeral, we liaised with them, and everything was peaceful. I feel sorry that the government did not take that as proof that the opposition is very reasonable.

"We managed to keep the students from turning it into a political event. If they had talked with us about our trip to the Irrawaddy Division, problems could have been avoided."

About 100,000 people, among them some ambassadors and UN chiefs of mission, attended the funeral of Aung San's widow on Jan. 2. It was organized by the NLD, and policed by students. And though many had expected it to turn into a violent, antigovernment demonstration, it didn't.

Democracy

Do the people really understand what the struggle is for—farmers, fishermen, small shopkeepers? Do they know what "democracy" means?

"I ask them that. I ask them what they want. They say that they want democracy. Then I ask them if they know what the word means. They tell me it is the right to be allowed to live their lives their own way. That is what democracy means for most Burmese people—freedom. And I think that for a start, that's not so bad."

How does she assess the prospects for democracy in her country?

Her response is immediate, confident: "I think they are good. This does not mean that I think it will be easy. But perhaps it's just as well that we do not get it so easily. We will have to work hard, and go through much difficulty. But we will get it. I do not see how we can possibly not get it."

We ask whether by "difficulty" she means having to fight for it with arms.

She shakes her head. "No. Violence is not necessarily the most difficult way. Of course, death is painful. And we must be willing to face it. But sometimes, the sustained struggle, the coping within a very restricted situation, the economic constraints, the enduring—these are more difficult than doing battle in the streets."

If you want it...

Aung San Suu Kyi mentions the fact that her party has no steady source of funds. Nor do any of the others, we suppose. People contribute what they can. And the party raises some funds by selling leaflets, copies of her speeches, etc.

"But even then, I feel we will get what we want. And sooner, rather than later. The struggle will not be as long as some people fear."

Does she ever consider the possibility that the people will lose? After all, it does happen.

"People ask me: Will we get democracy? I tell them: It is up to you; if you want it hard enough, you will get it. I think they do want it. We all want it. So," the smile flashes, lighting up her face, "we will not lose."

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Alternative learning for Ata-Manobo kids

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Talaingod, Davao del Norte

THE BROWNISH-GREEN COgon grasses covering the hills of Sitio Dulyan in Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte, swayed into a frenzy.

From afar, the faint.whir of a chainsaw became obvious when the chorus dropped its volume.

Squeezed on the makeshift stage, the Ata-Manobo children took turns in impressing their teacher and a few adults with their merry exchanges.

The innocent voices showed not a taint of anger, even as they bellowed many times what seemed to be the angriest song ever taught them—a parody of an original Cebuano novelty song "Pakitong-kitong" that speaks much of their experiences as an indigenous people forced to the limit by a form of development that stripped them of their right to their ancestral land and "*lumad*" identity.

Repeatedly, they sang, albeit "happily": "*Tong, tong, tong, tong pakitong-kitong, dakong bukid sa Mindanaw, gibungkag sa mga langyaw … gikuha ang bulawan, ang lumad, natabunan* (Big mountains of Mindanao, destroyed by the migrants or foreign invaders … they took away the gold and buried us all)."

Bloody history

Each line might as well have ended in exclamation points, but perhaps the singers were still too young to learn and understand the tragedies of the past to perform a heartfelt rendition.

The remnants are evident in the people and the village, and articulated by the desire of the children to go to school.

Diana Mandarawon had to wake up at 3 in the morning and walk for at least three hours so as not to miss the 7 a.m. flag ceremony at school in Dulyan.

The 12-year-old girl is from Sitio Tambuko, the farthest village from Dulyan, and goes to school with only a *balon* (provision) of cassava, sweet potato or banana.

No food, pencil, paper

Her cousin, Gina, who does not know her exact age (probably a year younger), does not even have a *balon*, or a pencil and paper. But she is not easily discouraged; she can still use the free spaces of her old notes, a "better" condition than other pupils who practice writing their names on banana leaves.

Diana and Gina agree that they are "lucky" they have not passed out yet during flag ceremonies unlike other girls from neighboring villages who come with empty stomachs.

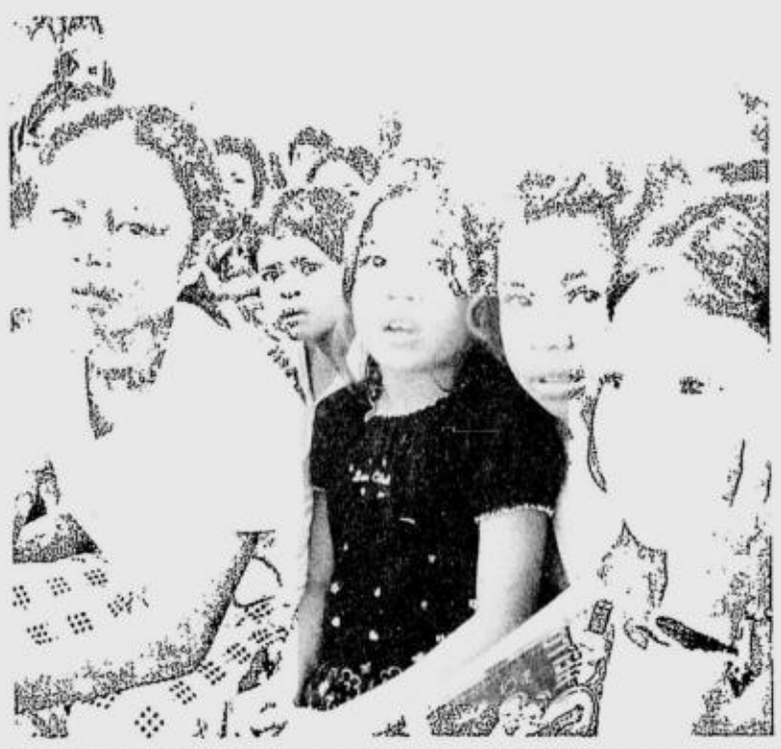
Diana said she did not mind the long walks because she did not want to miss the lessons.

Asked why she wanted to go to school, she said: "For us to understand the lowlanders, the Bisaya."

Asked further about what she wanted to learn, the dark-skinned girl said, "So they can no longer cheat us."

Unlike her outspoken cousin, Gina said she had wanted to become a doctor, apparently inspired by a physician who recently visited her community after many months.

It was only in June that the school in Dulyan, called the Salupongan Ta Tanu Igkanugon Community Learning Center Inc., was opened as a formal learning institution recognized by the Department of Education. It had been run for two years as a community-based learning facility, catering to the academic needs not only of children but also of adults.



THESE Ata-Manobo children only want to learn to read, write and count money so that the Bisaya will no longer cheat them. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

At least 56 pupils are in Grade 1, the oldest being a 14-year-old girl.

But for them to complete their elementary education, they must go to Barangay Sto. Niño—a walk of about 20 kilometers from the village or a motorcycle ride costing P600 per person.

In 2004, community learning centers were also established, paralleled by a series of training sessions for community teachers. The first was put up in Sitio Nalubas, a village that can only be reached in 10 hours by foot from Dulyan.

The other centers are in the interior villages of Saso, Inaloy, Basagan, Pong-Pong, Tibukag, Nasilaban, and Bagang.

At least 147 *lumad* children benefit from the learning centers, which were initiated by the nongovernment Solidarity Action Group for Indigenous People (Sagip).

The unique thing about the schools is the integration of training with the needs and situation of the villagers. Their curricula carry the basic principles of *makinasudnon* (patriotic), *makamasa* (propeople) and *siyentipiko* (scientific), or MMS.

The centers primarily aim to teach the children how to write, read and do simple mathematics. Because the community situation is considered, the pupils are also exposed to food production through sustainable agriculture.

A study conducted by Sagip in the interior areas of Talaingod in 2005 found that more than 90 percent of the *lumad* children had never been to school.

Ata-Manobo children, according to one of its papers, benefited from the literacy program of the people-initiatited Kahugpungan sa mga Lumad alang sa Kalambuan (Indigenous People's Unity for Development) in the early 1990s.

The program was stopped when the Ata-Manobo people rose against the giant logger Alcantara and Sons (Alsons), one of the companies that applied for an integrated forest management agreement permit for the more than 45,000 hectares of indigenous peoples' land in Talaingod.

Alsons is owned by Paul Dominguez, former Presidential Assistant for Mindanao. Its timber licensing agreement expired in 1986, almost 20 years of practically stripping Talaingod's mountains of trees.

The company allegedly encroached on Ata-Monobo ancestral land, infuriating the elders who waged a bloody *pangayaw* (tribal war) that eventually forced it to leave.

Alternative education

"The alternative education given to the *lumad* was affected when the resistance against the logging company broke. The Ata, however, do not lack the enthusiasm to learn. Many a time, those fortunate enough to be literate are pursued by their neighbors and relatives to teach their children," the Sagip paper said.

The parents supported their children's education by sending rice and yam to the teachers, even when supply of the crops was low, it said.

Lolit Casagda, literacy and numeracy regional program coordinator of Sagip, said the denuded mountains had forced the *lumad* to confront scarce food and clean water.

The children are also taught what crops must be planted and grown for their food and survival.

"The teachers give lectures on agriculture and food production and this is coupled with farm demonstration. Literacy and numeracy will not be sustained without the actual activities in the school farms," she said.

The pupils are also taught how to take care of the environment or to preserve what is left of it by big-time logging operations.

Right to education

Marvin Tohonon, 27, a *lumad* teacher based in Nalubas, said the people's interest to learn was beyond question. What is only lacking are school facilities, books and other supplies, and well-trained and formal educators, he said.

Tohonon, who was fortunate to have finished his elementary education although not on time, said that for so many years, the people had been deprived of the right to basic education, for which they had been taken advantage of. As a community teacher, he receives a P1,000 monthly allowance from the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines.

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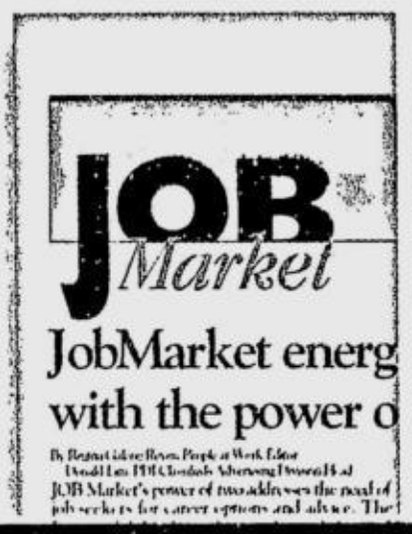

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Fraud surfaces again in coming polls

TWO MEN pass by newly painted ballot boxes at the Comelec's warehouse near UN Avenue, Manila. The country will have its barangay elections on Oct. 29. REM ZAMORA

PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO—AN 11-YEAR-OLD child said she was made to register last Aug. 27, along with several other minors and older individuals, as voters for the coming Sangguniang Kabataan elections in five riverside villages here.

Ana (not her real name) said, like the other minors and older residents, she was not required to show her birth certificate because armed men were on close watch over the registration proceedings, which were manned only by a few scared barangay teachers.

Threats

Ana's case was ventilated by a group of teenagers, who wrote the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting under the Archdiocese of Cotabato.

The group said some high school voters were also threatened by armed men against participating in the village and youth council elections.

Mohali Salik, one of the 12 signatories of the Oct. 9 letter, later told the INQUIRER that the war-devastated villages of Rajamuda, Baguinged, Bulook, Barongis and Kabasalan, were hardly ready for the village elections, because of the threat of violence escalating during election day.

Very risky

Participating in the elections, he said, was "very risky."

A public school teacher here confirmed that only relatives of armed men who were calling the shots in those areas would agree to be assigned there as members of the board of elections inspectors.

The teacher, who asked not to be identified because her life would be in danger, showed the INQUIRER her copy of the registration sheet, in which was listed 39 voters born in February or March 1991.

She said a barangay of 600 households with 40 percent of couples in reproductive age could not produce 39 babies in one year in a span of one month.

Other side of the fence

Salik's group also informed peace negotiators that some "politicized dissidents" had warned them not to go home, either to run for the youth council or to even cast their vote on election day.

"(Government) officials and parties to the peace negotiation should be on guard over threats, warning high school youths against returning from their schools to their (residence) barangays to freely express their will in voting for their candidates or be voted for (as bets themselves) in the coming SK election," the letter said.

The high school students also addressed their letter to the National Youth Commission, the Commission on Elections and the offices of Mayor Sumulong Sultan, and of Gov. Jesus Sacdalan and Vice Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

Because of fear, the students said they wanted the voting clustered from the five Moro villages into the village hall of Barangay Gli-Gli, a Visayan-dominated village here, which Moro guerrillas attacked in 1989. *Inquirer Mindanao*

No funds allotted for Oct. 29 elections

TACLOBAN CITY—ONLY TWO weeks are left before the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections but the city government has yet to allocate funds for the exercises.

Under its current budget, the Tacloban City government has allocated P200,000 for the Commission on Elections (Comelec) office in the city, said city treasurer Edgardo Macion.

However, Macion said this amount represents the usual financial assistance to the Comelec-Tacloban office and would be used for its operations, not for the elections.

Macion said that the city government did not allot any money for the joint elections because they were not sure they would push through.

Postponement

The House of Representatives passed a bill calling for the postponement of the barangay and SK elections, a move later supported by Malacañang but the bill did not get the Senate's support. The barangay and SK elections have been postponed twice, with lack of funds cited as the reason.

Comelec regional director Adolfo Ibañez urged all local government units in the region to set aside their counterpart fund for the Oct. 29 barangay-SK elections.

The local government units' share in the expenses of the two elections would be used for the honorarium and the traveling expenses of those who sit as members of the board of elections inspectors.

Budget request

City elections officer Ma. Corazon Montallana has asked Mayor Alfred Romualdez and members of the city council for over P300,000 to be used in the Oct. 29 elections.

However, the city officials have yet to act on her request, made last month.

Romualdez said the city government would honor its obligation and he would instruct the city's budget officials to identify the source of funds.

Once the source of funds was identified, Romualdez said, he would ask the Tacloban city council to pass a supplemental budget for this purpose.

The city treasurer's office had already received paraphernalia, such as bond papers and secrecy folders, needed for the elections.

The military said the Communist Party of the Philippines would support candidates in at least 20 barangays in Cebu and Bohol provinces.

Three of the 20 barangays are in Cebu, while 17 others are in Bohol, said Lt. Col. Oscar Lasangue, group commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command 3rd Civil Relations Group.

The three barangays are all in the towns of mid-north Cebu, Lasangue added.

"In due time, we will divulge the specific areas and the names of these candidates," Lasangue said. *Joey A. Gabieta with a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

Ebdane suspends DPWH exec in Halsema foul-up

BAGUIO CITY—PUBLIC WORKS Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has suspended the government engineers he blamed for the sloppy concreting work at Halsema Highway, the main road used to transport vegetables from Benguet and Mt. Province to Metro Manila every day.

His decision came with a directive to protect all public roads because budget shortage and poor restrictions against overloaded vehicles have taken their toll on the country's road network.

Ebdane was here last week to address the national conference of the Road Engineering Association of the Philippines, where he discussed his new road maintenance agenda.

"Our road density [summed up in 2006 as 28,978 km of national roads] is already much higher than those of developing countries in Asia except Japan. [But] in terms of road quality... our country falls below its neighbors such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan," he said.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said President Macapagal-Arroyo was fuming when she was informed about the foul-up in Halsema Highway's modernization.

Bautista and three other mayors attended a Cabinet meeting last week to represent their respective regional development councils.

The meeting was meant to discuss RDC output, he said, and Ms Arroyo "berated the DPWH for the Halsema delays."

Ebdane issued suspension orders only this week against three project engineers, three engineers who supervised material procurement and use, and three project inspectors of the Department of Public Works and Highways, for failing to oversee the modernization of the highway.

Earlier, he said he discovered that the concrete used in sections of Halsema Highway was substandard.

He ordered the contractors to repave the road at their own expense.

He also ordered an investigation after an audit report said 11 government contracts related to the Halsema Highway in Benguet and Mt. Province were subdivided into 24 sub-contracts. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Abu Sayyaf gets fresh foreign funding

Solicitation video on YouTube brings Janjalani brothers back from the dead

By Alcuin Papa

THE ISLAMIST EXTREMIST ABU SAYYAF GROUP has received fresh funding from foreign donors, the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) said, citing a video posted on the Internet which showed the late Janjalani brothers seeking financial support.

In a statement, the Nica said they have received reports that new money has been infused into the Abu Sayyaf financial network in Mindanao from abroad.

On a video posted in the popular YouTube website last August, the Janjalani brothers Abdurajak and Khadafy were shown asking would-be benefactors in the Middle East to support their cause with material and financial support.

The video clip was apparently shot before the Janjalani brothers died. Abdurajak, who founded the Abu Sayyaf, died 1998 in an encounter with police on Basilan island. Khadafy, who succeeded his brother as leader of the group, was reportedly killed In November 2006 in Jolo. In January 2007, the military confirmed his death.

Because of these reports, the Nica said yesterday that the terror threat level in Mindanao for October remained high.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) warned the other day of more terror attacks after the Ramadan period.

The Nica said the Abu Sayyaf is said to be planning to launch an attack during the yearly Fiesta Pilar celebrations in Zamboanga City this month "to inflict mass casualties."

It has maintained its level 3 threat forecast in Mindanao due to threats posed by extortion groups linked to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), its foreign allies and the ASG who are believed behind several bombings of buses in Central Mindanao.

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Miles apart but brought together by a common cause

By Marlet D. Salazar

ONE HAS BEEN RESIDING IN the United States for years while the other lives in Manila. Though separated by continents, Rhodora Maiolo and Reggie Sabado are united by a common cause: To put a complete stop to the illegal trade of dog meat in the Philippines.

The two Filipino women met online while visiting a website dedicated to dog lovers. Upon finding out that the Internet was being used as a "bulletin board" by backyard breeders of dog meat, they decided to do something about it.

Maiolo and Sabado, who works for an information technology company in the Philippines, then started a campaign to collect 50,000 signatures calling for the strict implementation of the ban on dog meat trade.

They bombarded their friends with e-mails asking for their support and also went around to persuade people to sign their petition.

The two animal lovers reached their target last June and are set to present their petition to lawmakers, officials of concerned agencies, as well as President Macapagal-Arroyo.

However, Maiolo, 37, is also involved in another fight, one more personal.

A former resident of Tondo, Manila, who migrated to the US at the age of 11, she is battling stage 4 breast cancer.

A gemologist, Maiolo stumbled upon the website for dog lovers right after she discovered that the cancer, which was in remission, had come back.

"To help pass my time, I often surf the Internet," she said. "That's how I learned about this dog lovers online community site."

But Maiolo's enthusiasm soon turned to disgust when she discovered that the site was being used as an "irresponsible backyard breeding puppy mill for malnourished, nonvaccinated and neglected dogs."

Further research yielded articles and several other websites advocating a stop to the illegal dog meat trade.

"I was reminded that these were not just urban legends I have been hearing since childhood. Dog meat eating actually happens and quite frequently," she said.

DOG lovers Rhodora Maiolo (top) and Reggie Sabado (top, right) have gathered 50,000 signatures calling on the RP government to stop the illegal dog meat trade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

At that point, Maiolo felt she needed to do something despite the fact that she was hundreds of miles away.

"It's the only logical thing I could think of, considering I started out alone in this, plus the fact that this will be a long distance campaign," she said, referring to the signature drive. "I figured that it would be worth it to put the Philippines in the international spotlight, despite the negative publicity it might generate, because of all the attention the issue would be getting."

She then started working with Sabado in spreading the word about the signature campaign.

The petition, written by Jazmine Estacio, was posted online at www.dogmeatrade.com.

Many Filipinos, as well as animal lovers from other countries, were among those who signed it.

Last July, Maiolo was told by her doctor that her cancer had spread after going into remission.

"It's Stage IV this time, and it had metastasized to the bones, liver and blood," she said.

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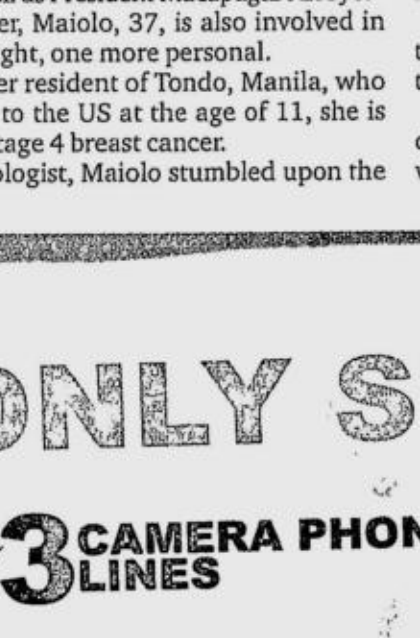

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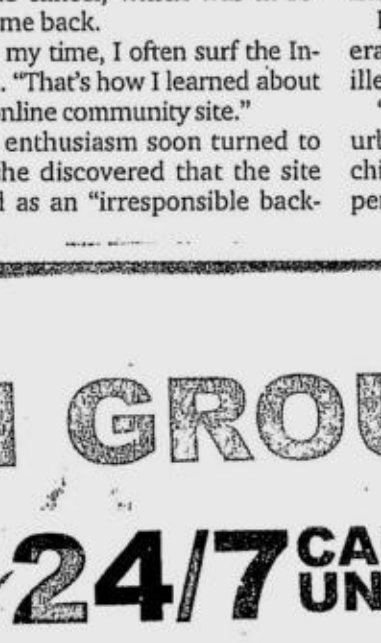

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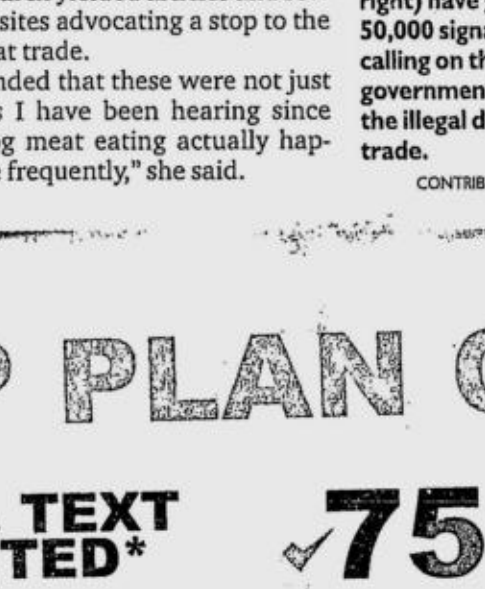

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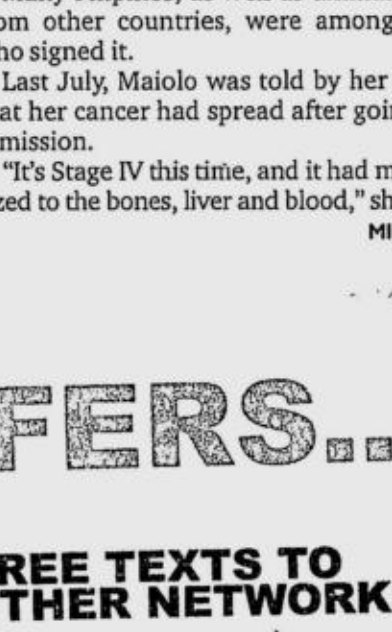

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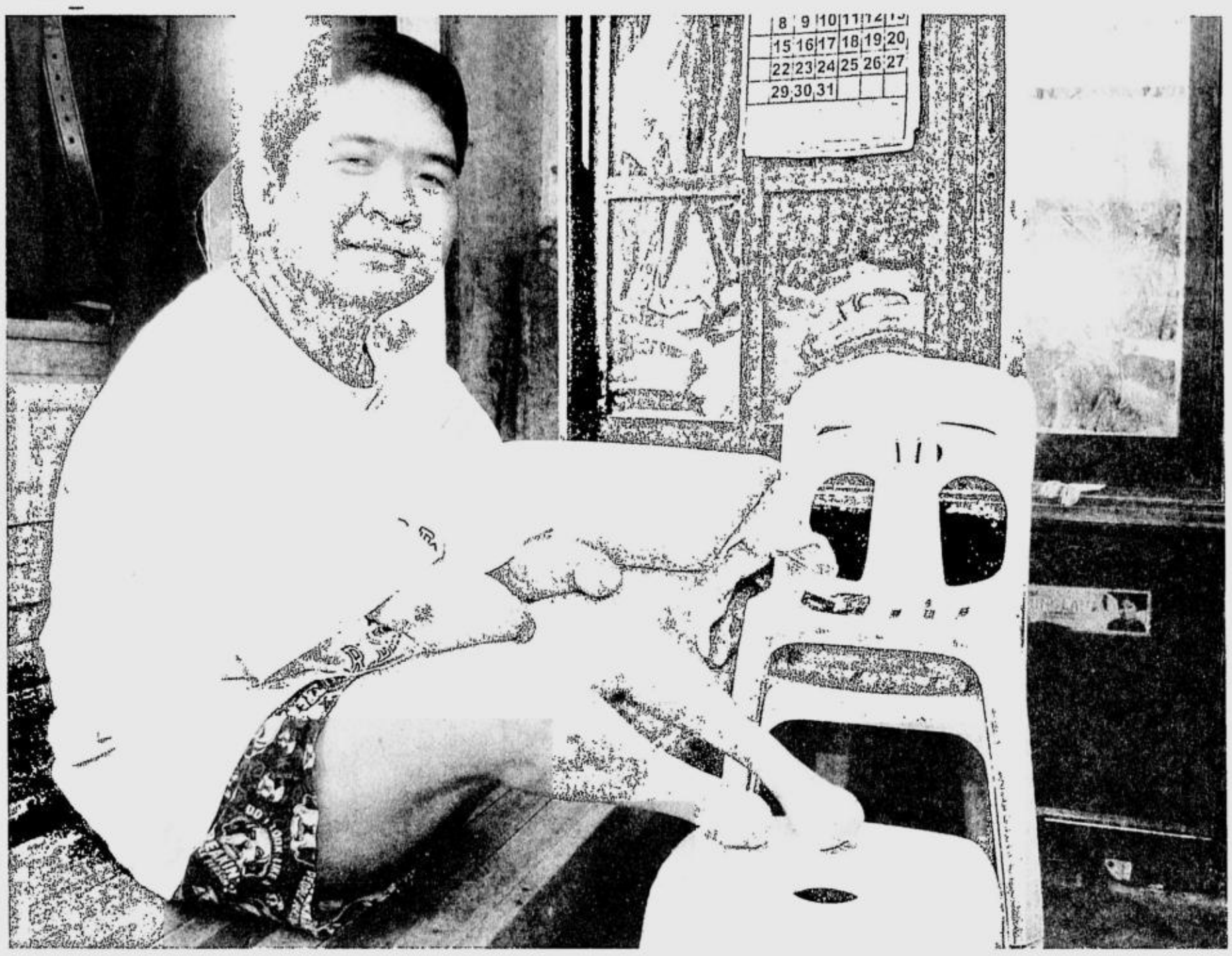
Little big man's whole new world

By Julie M. Aurelio



RAYMUND Rivera, an employee of the Taguig City government, has an ambitious goal: To "find each and every disabled person in every city to help them earn a living." RYAN LIM

TALES OF THE CITY

BORN WITHOUT LIMBS, RAYMUND Rivera, 35, is only about four feet, and yet he walks tall among his coworkers at the satellite office of the Taguig City Hall in Barangay Western Bicutan.

Despite the child-sized rubber shoes he wears, his mincing gait and the stump at the end of his arms where fingers should be, his coworkers like him because of his positive attitude.

"Sometimes, my child asks me, 'Papa, where are your feet?' I proudly tell him that all of this is heaven-sent," the city hall employee told the INQUIRER.

Rivera, who was recently elected as the Metro Manila chapter president of the Person With Disability Federation, works at the satellite office's business permits division.

The appointment came as a surprise to Rivera who used to feel apprehensive at the thought of attending meetings for differently-abled people like himself.

"I used to dislike those meetings because I was afraid of feeling more sorry for myself and my condition," he said.

As a child, Rivera managed to overcome his helplessness when he felt envious of his playmates who were able to jump, run and walk with ease.

"If I didn't feel jealous of those who were able to walk, I wouldn't have learned how to walk at all," he recalled.

"We were very poor. I was the only one in my family with no hands and feet. But my parents brought me up in as normal a way as possible," he added.

With not enough money to send him to a special school, Rivera's family sent him to the Tenement Elementary School in Taguig City where he learned to read, write and mingle with "whole" people.

He was able to write his name using both of his forearms, which end in a stump just below the elbow. He moved about in child-sized shoes which fitted just below his knee.

In high school, Rivera began feeling the pangs of self-consciousness. "I was afraid of being teased, I felt a bit ashamed," he said.

But a priest, Father Lagaya, asked him: "Why should you feel shame in what God gave you?"

The gentle rebuke spurred the teenager to pursue his dreams of finishing a computer vocational course in Pasay City.

At the age of 16, he ran for a Sangguniang Kabataan position and won.

He was eventually assigned to a clerical job at the Youth and Sports Development office of the Taguig City Hall in 2000. Rivera was later transferred to the Area 3 satellite office in Western Bicutan where he has been holding a regular desk job for the past two years.

"If I don't work, then I will have to depend on other people my entire life," he pointed out.

At the office, Rivera goes over documents and applications for business permits. His coworkers sometimes tease him about his condition but he just waves them off.

"Wherever you go, even if you are a normal person, there will be those who will make fun of you. So I just laugh at them," he said.

Some officemates even go as far as insinuating that Rivera uses his disability to be late for work, or to do a task at a slower pace.

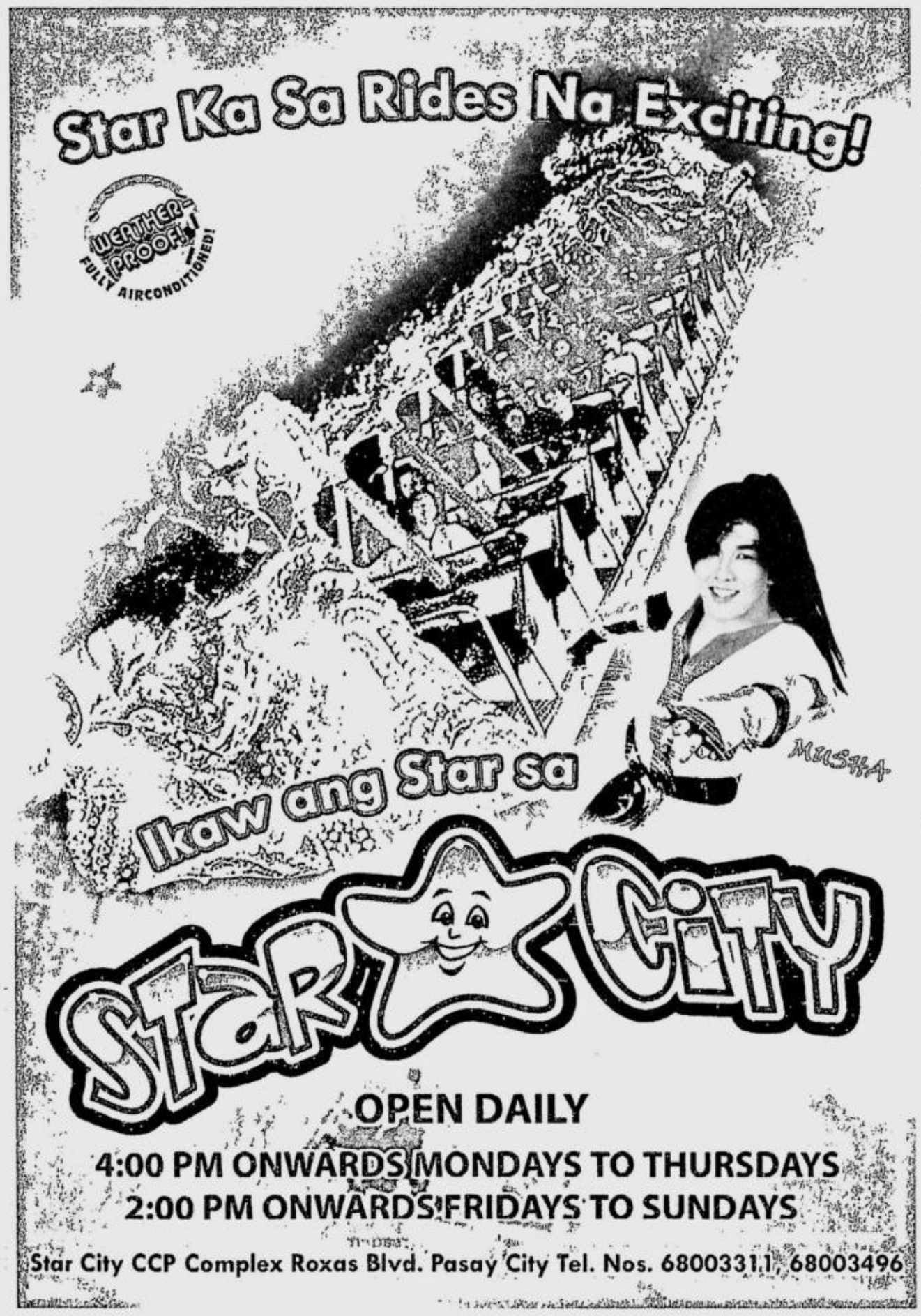
However, he knows that blowing his top would only add to the discrimination against differently-abled people everywhere.

Rather than lose his cool, Rivera says he is planning to work on livelihood projects for disabled persons with the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"Being disabled should not be a hindrance to getting a job. We will find each and every disabled person in every city to help them earn a living," he added.

Neither did his disability prevent him from finding love. Rivera met his wife, Leilani, in 2003. They now have two kids: Dominic Ray, 5, and Wingard, a few weeks old.

"It may be difficult, but people like us should strive harder. Only then can we become whole, in more ways than one," he said.



15,000 soldiers to assist MMDA in relief, road clearing operations

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE MILITARY WILL SOON BE HELPING out the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority in its disaster relief and sidewalk clearing operations.

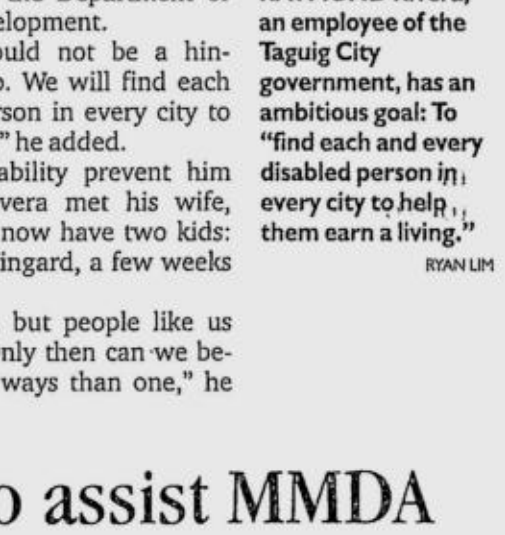
MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be lending some 15,000 soldiers who would assist the agency's personnel in clearing roads in the metropolis of informal settlers, illegally parked vehicles and sidewalk vendors.

Most of the soldiers are from the AFP's National Capital Region Command headed by Maj. Gen Fernando Mesa.

Fernando made the announcement after the MMDA trained 376 AFP officers in disaster preparedness and management at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City last week.

"We need you to help us respond to disasters, not through your rifles, but through the use of tools and equipment in helping our distressed countrymen," the MMDA chair said as he thanked the AFP for its support.

The chief of the MMDA special operations unit, Ramon Santiago, oversaw the training of the military officers and personnel.



WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK
A Quezon City policeman keeps his whistle handy after police officials reminded their men to blow their whistles, instead of firing their guns, when giving criminals a first warning.
JOAN BONDOC

Miles apart but ...

From page A17

She underwent chemotherapy and the cancer is now in remission again.

Maiolo said she draws her strength from her dog, Mario Lorenzo Lucca de Jesus-Maiolo.

"I still walk him a minimum of 30 minutes every day and take him everywhere with me and my husband, whether it be Maui, Mexico, Hawaii or just a stroll in parks or shopping malls," she said.

Sabado, on the other hand, has two Shih Tzus: Wufei and Sakura.

Although a staunch advocate of animal welfare, Sabado, a graduate of computer applications, is not a member of any animal welfare group.

She hopes, however, to build her own shelter in five to 10 years time and then expand it into a sanctuary for endangered species.

Maiolo has offered financial assistance to help Sabado fulfill her dream but the latter politely declined.

"I am really hesitant to ask for money especially since I am just starting my own career," she explained. "I will not be able to put as much attention as I want into the organization. At least when I am putting it up with my own money, I can be more aggressive in the activities that I may undertake," she explained.

Maiolo said their campaign does not intend to put the country in a bad light but to hopefully lead to a dialogue not only among adults, but children as well, about the illegal dog meat trade.

Sabado, on the other hand, is hoping to get the government's support in the protection of animal rights in the Philippines.

"I am hoping that, at the very least, the government will realize that Filipinos are not the only ones who want the rights of animals in the Philippines protected, there are also people all over the world who are concerned about what's happening. And hopefully, they will improve the implementation of the laws so that animal rights are really protected," she said.

"MORE women leave to work abroad while more men are left to become house-husbands. It's a female-dominated workforce out there. Now, these men decide which brand of diapers, milk, bath and wash soap is best for the family."
EDCEL LAGMAN, September 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

DO you agree with a survey that most OFW families tend to just sit back and wait for remittances?

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer gp name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. Those are their stories.

RUDY ESPERAS

FROM where he is in Jeddah, Ron Santos, chief supervisor of an Arabian tractor company, is a proud father of Erik Santos (right), keeps track of his son's career, even telling him what songs to sing, among others, thanks to The Filipino Channel.

Dad in a million

Based in Saudi, Erik Santos' pa doesn't see himself retiring yet

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LIKE MANY FILIPINOS OF HIS GENERATION, Ron Santos left for the Middle East when his children were still very young. The year was 1982, he recalls. He was just 30 and his eldest daughter was only four and his youngest son was barely 10 months old when he moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to work as a Quality Control inspector at the Saudi Tractor Manufacturing Company.

Work days are long and "always busy." It's not uncommon for him to log in at least eight hours in the office, he relates.

He only has one day off a week—which he usually spends fishing, swimming in the beach and playing basketball with his Filipino friends.

"There are so many challenges in working abroad," he says. "For one thing, I always try to impress my superiors with my work."

In this regard, Ron has apparently succeeded. After 24 years in the same Jeddah-based company, he has moved up the ladder. He's now chief supervisor.

But the promotion entailed bigger responsibilities, he concedes. "For me, the biggest challenge is having co-workers from different countries under my supervision. We all must get along well in spite of our different cultures, religions, languages and attitudes in life."

Life-changing stint

He admits that his stint abroad was life-changing.

"It gave me the chance to provide food, shelter and a better life for my family. It permitted me to send my children to good schools. In exchange, however, one has to suffer loneliness—being so far away from your loved ones."

More than work-related pressures, homesickness was a bigger hurdle to overcome, he says.

"In the past, I used to write to my family at least once a week and I used to call at least once a month," he relates. "Thank God that the cell phone was invented! Now, I can easily text or call my loved ones every day."

Another way he eases loneliness is by watching The Filipino Channel (TFC).

TFC

ABS-CBN's international cable channel not only allows him to catch Filipino shows, but informs him of the latest goings-on in the life of his son—the same 10-month-old infant he said goodbye to 24 years ago.

It's because he is the father of singer Erik Santos, who was discovered on the ABS-CBN talent search "Star in a Million" in January 2004.

During the heated contest, Ron showered Erik with gentle reminders and encouragement.

"I kept telling Erik to be himself and to sing soulfully." He assured Erik that he didn't have to win. "I only needed to see him on TV a couple of times and I'd be happy."

"He was very excited for me when I auditioned for the show," Erik looks back. "He also gave suggestions on what songs to sing so that I'd reach the final round."

Erik supposedly inherited his talent from dad Ron, who can also belt it out with a videoke microphone.

Quiet type

Erik describes his dad as the "quiet type."

"He's not showy, but when my dad texts, he always tells me that he's very proud of me," Erik notes.

Ron returns the compliment: "Erik is a loving son. Very patient, generous and kind-hearted. He's also hard-working and very determined."

Erik's instant celebrity caught Ron by surprise.

"When I learned from my wife Angelita that our son Erik won the competition, I couldn't concentrate at work. I was so happy and excited. My friends thought I was going crazy. I was jumping and shouting all day long. I felt so proud!"

Solo concert Oct. 19

Needless to say, Ron's colleagues soon found out about Erik's victory largely because of all that jumping and screaming.

"My friends know about Erik's show biz career. Some of them even visit Erik in our new house whenever they are on vacation in the country," Ron says.

"That made him quite popular in his company," Erik muses.

When Erik goes onstage at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 19 for his first solo concert, the brightest face in the crowd will undoubtedly be his dad's.

"I'll watch his concert. I'm currently in town for a long vacation so that I can set up a small business for my family," Ron says.

Retirement, however, is far from the 54-year-old workaholic's mind.

"Erik and his mom keep asking me to stay home permanently. I always give the same answer: 'I still have so many goals in life.'"

The prospect of finally coming home precisely inspires him to work even harder.

No place like home

"Yes, I'm considering retiring in the future. As they say: There's no place like home. At the end of the day, I can proudly say that I've done my time and I did my best," asserts Ron.

To other overseas Filipino workers, he offers these simple pieces of advice. "Always remain positive. Be courageous, as you will face many challenges ahead. Do not spend your earnings on unnecessary things and never forget that you are working abroad for your family. Most importantly, always pray to God."

'Filos' learn lesson from Down Under

By Bobbit Mariano
Contributor

MELBOURNE—AUSTRALIA is generally a peaceful country. Melbourne, which is part of Victoria province, is a good place to raise a family. I have been working in Melbourne for almost six years now in Philippine Times, a Filipino community paper here. How I wish I could share with our *kababayan* (countrymen) the goodness of this country, and what we can learn from them. Filipinos abroad like me still 'love' their country of origin or native land. We still want to retire in the Philippines. As the saying goes, 'there is no place like home.'

Most Filipino migrants in Melbourne live in the Western suburb; they find a permanent home in St. Albans, Sunshine, Footscray, Caroline Springs, Cairnlea, Rose Hedge, Water garden, Alvandale, Deer Park and Werribee. The number of Filipinos in Melbourne is more than 10,000; a large number is located in Sydney. Most Filipinas married Aussies, and they are church goers and mall shoppers, too. Filipinos usually go to shop in High Point, Brimbank shopping Centre, Target, Water Gardens, Federation Square in Melbourne City, Botanical Gardens and Yarra River.

How I wish that many Filipinos especially government officials should have a study tour in Melbourne.

For instance, concerned officials must take notice on how Melbournians drive on streets. Whenever, motorists will turn to the right or left direction, they always use their signal lights. Car drivers also observe speed limits of only 60 kph in secondary road or within the suburb (or barangays) and 90 or 100 kph in national highway like in Western Ring Road.

Buses stop and pick passengers only in designated areas within the 'bus stop' sign. Buses come every 15 minutes. Drivers never get passengers especially those who are waiting in a wrong spot. In addition, it is a must for vehicles to give way to pedestrians, unlike in the Philippines, where the pedestrians are the ones who give way to vehicles.

Some Filipino drivers don't obey traffic rules or simple orders from the authorized 'blue boys' who are manning the chaotic traffic assigned by the Metro Manila Development Authority.

How are we going to attain continuing progress when we don't even obey traffic regulation? How if the sign 'Slow Down, Koala Crossing' was put up on Edsa? You can see this traffic sign along the road of Koala Conservation Park in Phillip Island, about three to four hours drive from Melbourne city.

During holiday like Melbourne Cup on the Horse Racing Festival, Queens' birthday and school break, Filipinos and visitors usually go for a long-drive trip. Some of the favorite destinations include Phillip Island, about 120 kilometers south-east of Melbourne.

Phillip Island is a wonderful place for a holiday, the calm beaches on its Western Port side are ideal for families, and on its Bass Strait side are some of the best surf beaches in Victoria. However, many people would count their visit in this island well worth if they only saw the just-after-sunset arrival of Little Penguins.

Joc-Joc: Political asylum or avoidance?

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancinco

LAST YEAR, FORMER AGRIculture undersecretary, Jocelyn "Joc Joc" Bolante attempted to enter the United States on a visitor's visa but was denied entry. His visa was cancelled by the US Embassy despite the fact that he was holding a valid visa stamped on his passport. Why is Bolante still in federal custody after more than one year?

No Bail

When the Philippine Senate issued a warrant of arrest against Bolante, the US Embassy decided to cancel his visa. Cancellation of visa may happen in varying situations. Hence, despite the issuance of a valid visa, if the US Department of State receives derogatory information about the applicant that will warrant the cancellation of the visa holder, a memorandum will be sent to the US Department of Homeland Security to put the client on a the list of those who are to be rendered inadmissible.

Bolante no longer had a valid visa when he was entering the US in 2006. Since he had no valid visa and was seeking admission, he was considered an arriving alien. He could have been sent back to Manila that very same day that he tried to enter the United States and put on expedited removal proceedings. This procedure is often referred to as "Airport to Airport."

One of the circumstances where the expedited removal proceedings may be prevented is when an arriving alien applies for political asylum. Even if he is afforded the opportunity to apply for political asylum, Bolante will still be kept in prison considering that he is an arriving alien and there is no 'bail' for arriving aliens.

Political Asylum

Some individuals who are similarly situated face the same fate of not being able to bail out. However, there are individuals who are in removal proceedings who are out on bail depending on the circumstances of the particular case and the relief they are presenting.

Asylum is the status sought by non-US citizens who enter the US, either legally or illegally, asking for refuge based on claims of persecution or fear of persecution in their home country. In applying for political asylum, the application is filed affirmatively with the asylum officer of the US Department of Homeland Security. This is adjudicated without delay and if there are merits in the case, the political asylum is approved and the applicant is free to enter and work in the US. If it is denied, the applicant is put in removal proceedings where the asylum application is heard again. If it is denied, the applicant will be issued a removal/deportation order.

Bolante's fears

Bolante's application for political asylum is based on his alleged fear of persecution because of his political connections. His application was found to be without merit and has been denied twice and a deportation order was already issued by the immigration judge. This is currently being appealed with Court of Appeals through a petition for review.

I have not read the briefs filed by the parties in the petition for review. Basing it on statistical probability, however, chances are, the petition for review will be denied. According to the statistics from the TRAC Reports Inc., of the 631 political asylum cases filed in the US by Filipinos from 2000 to 2005, 75.8 percent were denied.

Tell the truth

Even without political asylum case being the issue here, it would still be an alternative for Bolante to just consider voluntary departure from the US instead of staying in a federal prison at Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The immigration judge has already found that the fear of persecution because of a political belief was not a credible claim. Instead of spending his time in jail, would it not be a more palatable alternative to just testify before the Senate on on the P728 million-fertilizer fund scam?

Political asylum is not a vehicle to hide from one's responsibility as a public official; neither will political avoidance bring him freedom. He also cannot be released on bail. Will the truth set him free?

(IMFO stands for Immigration Information. A lawyer, Tancinco may be reached at 887-7177 or law@tancinco.com).

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

EU to step up sanctions on Burma

BRUSSELS—THE EUROPEAN UNION IS SET TO beef up its sanctions against Burma (Myanmar) next week by introducing an embargo on timber, gems and metals, according to a draft text agreed Friday.

EU foreign ministers could approve the import bans—which would notably affect Burma's teak and jade trade—when they meet in Luxembourg on Monday.

"In view of the seriousness of the current situation and in solidarity with the people of (Burma), the EU deems it necessary to increase direct pressure on the regime through stronger measures," according to the draft agreement, seen by AFP.

To that end the EU ban will cover the import of Burma timber, metals, minerals and precious and semiprecious stones, it said, adding that the measures are designed to "do no harm to the general population."

The Eruopean Union would at the same time confirm the continuation of "substantial humanitarian aid programmes aimed at the most vulnerable populations."

The EU already has broad sanctions in place against Burma's leadership and their families—with 375 people on a visa-ban, asset-freeze list—and officials have stressed the importance of putting pressure on neighboring countries and in particular China and India.

BURMA'S Prime Minister Soe Win, presumed to have been the architect of an attack on supporters of prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 2003, died on Oct. 12, state media announced. REUTERS

The statement drawn up for the foreign ministers also "strongly condemns the brutal crackdown on demonstrators" led by Buddhist monks in Burma recently and urges the regime to exercise restraint.

The EU measures will spare the energy sector and therefore the activities of the French group Total in the country.

The EU ministers will also express their support for the UN special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, and back "further UN engagement, including by the Security Council."

While flagging their intentions to boost sanctions in recent weeks, EU officials have stressed that they have a limited effect on a regime already greatly isolated by the West. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Ex-commander: Iraq strategy a nightmare

SANCHEZ AFP

WASHINGTON—A former top US military commander in Iraq said the current White House strategy in Iraq will not achieve victory in the four-and-a-half-year war, which he described as "a nightmare with no end in sight" in a hard-hitting speech. In the bluntest assessment of Iraq by a former senior Pentagon official yet, retired Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez also lambasted US political leaders as "incompetent," "inept," "derelict in the performance of their duty" and suggested they would have been court-martialed had they been members of the US military. "There is no question that America is living a nightmare with no end in sight," said Sanchez on Friday, addressing a meeting of military correspondents and editors in Arlington, a Virginia suburb of Washington. "Continued manipulations and adjustments to our military strategy will not achieve victory," he said. "The best we can do with this flawed approach is stave off defeat." *AFP*

China to retire powerful VP

BEIJING—The man waiting in the wings to take over should Chinese President Hu Jintao falter is set to retire at a Communist Party meeting next week, while two younger regional leaders will rise as potential next-generation leaders. The imminent retirement of Vice President Zeng Qinghong presents a boon to Hu, who is seeking to consolidate his power at the five-yearly Congress, the Party's 17th since its founding in 1921 and the most important political event in China this year. Zeng is expected to give up his seat in the top echelon of power, the Party's Politburo Standing Committee, at the week-long Congress opening on Monday, three independent sources with ties to the leadership said, requesting anonymity. *Reuters*

US FDA approves new AIDS treatment

WASHINGTON—A new AIDS treatment made by Merck & Co, the first in a new class of drugs aimed at preventing replication of the virus, has been approved by US regulators, Merck said on Friday. The drug will be available in about two weeks, Merck said. The US Food and Drug Administration cleared Isentress, a pill given twice a day and known generically as raltegravir. An FDA advisory panel recommended approval of the drug in September. It is the first in a new class of HIV treatments called integrase inhibitors that seek to block insertion of HIV genetic material into human DNA to prevent the creation of copies of the virus. *Reuters*

Gore Nobel win shows up Bush, says US press

WASHINGTON—US NEWSPAPERS Saturday hailed Al Gore's Nobel Peace Prize for his fight against climate change, saying it showed up failings of President George W. Bush in the seven years since he beat Gore to the White House.

"For more than 20 years, Mr. Gore persisted in the face of intense skepticism and criticism with his warnings about the impact of global warming on the planet," the Washington Post wrote, hailing the award as "vindication."

It interpreted Gore's honor—awarded jointly to him and the some 3,000 scientists of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—as "yet another perceived rebuff to the unpopular president."

"Mr. Bush's inaction on climate change is one of the major failings of his presidency," it said.

Bush has consistently resisted joining other world powers in committing to concrete targets for reducing harmful carbon dioxide emissions, though he has bowed to acknowledge the threat they pose.

"It shouldn't have to be left to a private citizen—even one so well known as Mr. Gore—or a panel of scientists to raise that alarm... or champion solutions to a problem that endangers the entire planet," the New York Times argued in Saturday's edition.

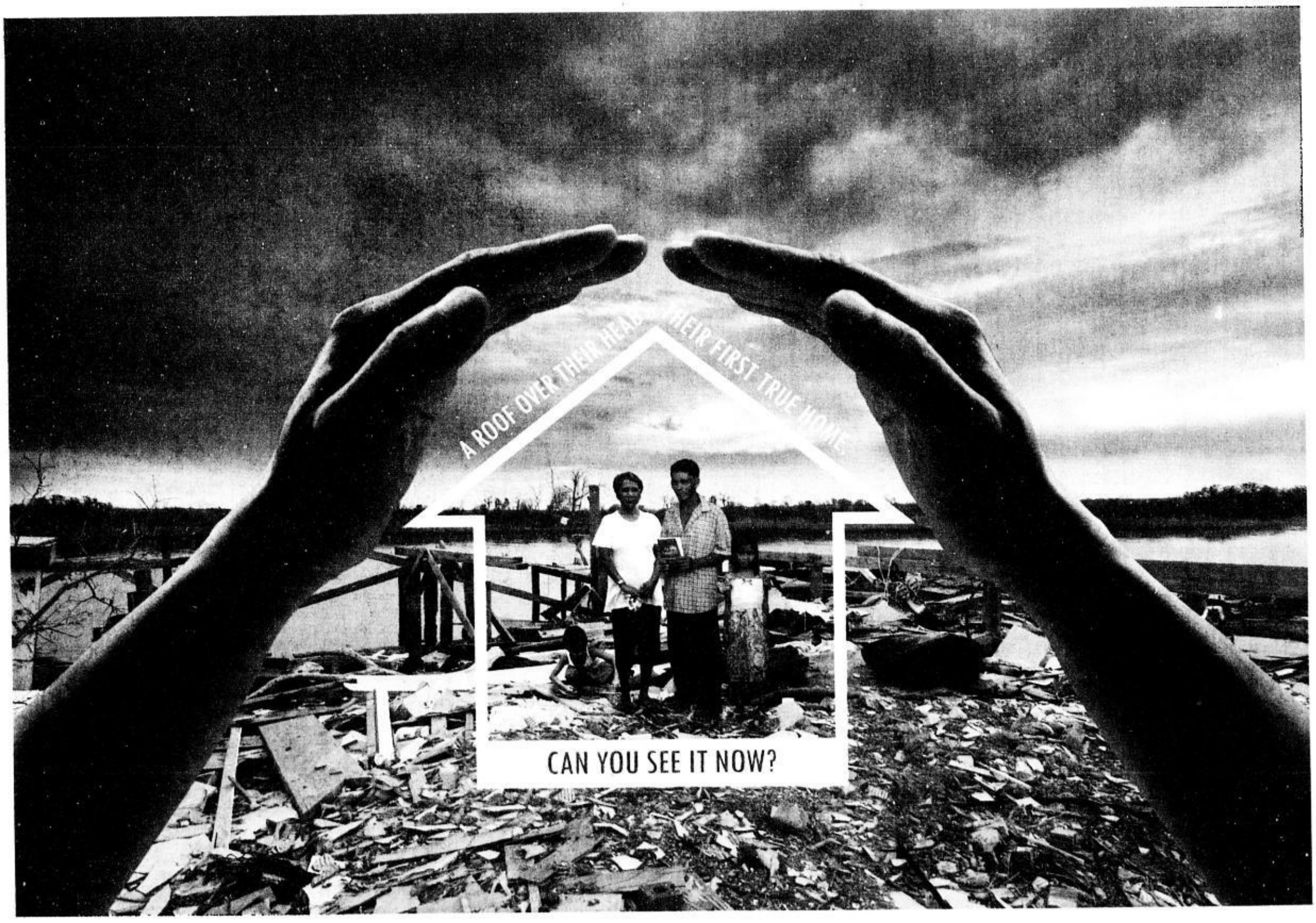
"That should be, and must be the job of governments. And governments—above all the Bush administration—have failed miserably."

The view was echoed in the Los Angeles Times, where opinion columnist Jonathan Chai wrote: "Gore's triumph is a measure of George W. Bush's disrepute."

The Dallas Morning News shared the view that the award vindicated Gore for skepticism expressed in the past at his expense.

"He has long been ahead of his time," it said in an editorial. "In 1992, President George H.W. Bush made fun of Mr. Gore, then running for vice president, for his environmental enthusiasm. Far fewer people are laughing today." *AFP*

GORE REUTERS



For decades Habitat for Humanity has established real homes and communities for displaced homeless families around the world. In the Philippines, our unique approach has produced innovative home-building technologies that make our mission more effective and efficient.

We can build homes quicker, even after emergencies or natural disasters, in more configurations that best suit local topographies. Our beneficiaries are stakeholders in the communities they develop, giving their labor as well as affordable financial contributions that truly make their homes theirs. Communities built by Habitat for Humanity Philippines are meant to last, as lasting as the homes we build, as lasting as our families' Christian values, devotion, and self-respect.

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INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

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JOHN Wilson (left) and the NCAA standouts turn back Edwin Asoro and the UAAP stars this time around.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

NCAA bets trip UAAP standouts

By Jasmine W. Payo

The NCAA ACES ROSE FROM A 16-point deficit to topple the UAAP standouts, 83-78, in the Samsung Bantay Bata All-Star Game yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

All-Star Most Valuable Player RJ Jazul of Letran and San Beda's Ogie Menor orchestrated a scoring tear in the second half to lead the NCAA to the victory.

"It's a fun game, so the team that just gives more effort comes out the winner," said NCAA All-Star coach Frankie Lim, who recently steered the Lions to their second straight NCAA title.

Jazul fired 11 of his 22 points in the third period as the NCAA squad rallied from a 23-39 deficit in the second canto against the UAAP stars, who won last year.

Letran's Rey Guevarra averted a UAAP sweep in the side events after capturing the slam dunk championship.

JV Casio, La Salle's veteran shooting guard, bagged the three-point shootout title with 23 points, while runner-up JR Tecson of San Beda mustered a measly six after topping the elimination round with 20 points.

Vicmel Epres and Martin Reyes of the University of the Philippines ruled the 2-3 ball competition with 45 markerst.

The scores:

NCAA 83—Jazul 22, Menor 20, Ekwe 19, Sena 6, Wilson 5, Dela Peña 4, David 3, Guevarra 2, Marcelo 2, Faundo 0, Kong 0, Hermida 0, Tecson 0.

UAAP 78—Asoro 13, Casio 13, Arao 12, Borboran 10, Ababou 6, Hugnatan 6, Tang 5, Baracael 4, Maierhofer 4, Gamboa 3, Arellano 2, Baclao 0, Cuan 0, Villanueva 0.

Quarters: 17-22, 35-45, 65-60, 83-78

PBA gets its show on the road today

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:30 p.m.—Opening ceremony
6:30 p.m.—Air21 vs. Magnolia

THERE MAY BE ONE BIG NAME missing, but the moment the curtains are drawn on the 33rd season of the Philippine Basketball Association, a bevy of stars from the sports and entertainment industries will try to make this one a night to remember for the fans—both here and around the world.

A boxing superstar popular internationally, a team described as two all-star squads put together as one during preseason previews, college basketball's finest graduates, tinsel town's most popular comedy duo and a bowling legend will be sardine-packed into the Araneta Coliseum today in an extravaganza that will be beamed throughout the world.

"It's going to be a big showcase for the fans," said league office-in-charge Sonny Barrios.

Manny Pacquiao, fresh off his conquest of Mexican super featherweight legend Marco Antonio Barrera, headlines the PBA's guest list. Tagging along will be reigning WBO bantamweight champion Gerry Peñalosa. Also a guest is Guinness Book of World Records entry and bowling Hall-of-Famer Paeng Nepumuceno.

The icing would have been PBA icon and former senator Robert Jaworski, who was penciled to coach the Air21 Express, which opens the season against the Magnolia Beverage Masters (formerly San Miguel) at 6:30 p.m., right after the 4:30 p.m. opening ceremonies.

The opening show will be hosted by Eat Bulaga's comic duo of Wally and Jose.

Talks between the Express management and Jaworski are still ongoing and the wait for the return of the PBA's biggest draw will have to go on.

But that's not to say there will be a lack of basketball star power.

For one, Magnolia boasts a lineup that many feel is packed with superstars like Danny Seigle, Danny Ildefonso, Dondon Hontiveros, Olsen Racela, Lordy Tugade and Enrico Villanueva.

Air21 has a lure of its own. The fast-paced squad, which will be led by the likes of Ranidel de Ocampo and KG Canaleta gets a shot of collegiate flavor after inking Ateneo stalwarts Doug Kramer and JC Intal.

ABC-5, the official television carrier of the league, airs a short PBA primer at 4 p.m. prior to the live coverage of the event at the Big Dome, which will also be viewed live in the Gulf Region, United States and Europe via the The Filipino Channel. *Francis Ochoa*

RP-Harbour rips Yonsei U cagers

SEOUL—AFTER ADJUSTING TO THE cool weather here, the Harbour Centre-Philippine team unraveled its true form Friday, crushing Yonsei University, 91-76, in a friendly game at the Yonsei University gym.

With veteran Eugene Tan and Boyet Bautista setting up gunners Patrick Cabahug, Eric dela Cuesta and Jeff Chan, the Nationals shattered the Korean defense with a barrage of three-pointers in the final half that set the tone for the breezy win.

The Nationals, whose training is bankrolled by Harbour Centre owner and amateur basketball godfather Mikee Romero, arrived here Wednesday night.

After making several gutsy drives, Bautista, the smallest in the RP squad at 5-foot-7, was tightly marked by the Koreans in the fourth but their effort went in vain as the former Letran star still finished with 15 points.

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Dr. Alan Escalona, President & CEO, Fruit Magic

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Powerhouse squads open V-League 2nd conference

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena*)
3 p.m.—Adamson vs FEU
5 p.m.—UST vs La Salle

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS and De La Salle University, the only teams to have won all five championships so far in the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament, clash today when the intercollegiate event begins its second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

Game time is set at 5 p.m. after the Adamson-Far Eastern University clash at 3 p.m.

The Lady Archers are the defending champions while the Tigresses bagged the first conference crown last July.

UST topped the inaugural season in 2004. La Salle won the next three.

In the previous conference, UST swept San Sebastian College for its second title while La Salle finished fourth.

UST is parading an almost intact lineup backed by guest player and Southeast Asian Games veteran Suzanne Roces while La Salle, reinforced by Maureen Penetrante, is counting on former junior standouts.

UST coach August Sta. Maria said winning back-to-back crowns will be their prime motivation and he is undaunted by the other schools' foreign reinforcements.

"I expect an interesting tournament," said Sta. Maria. "Ateneo is one of the teams to beat because they've trained in Thailand and I've heard they'll be getting a strong Thai import."

"It's difficult to tell our chances since all teams are strong," added Sta. Maria. "But I assure that we will be ready because we are also preparing for the coming UAAP tournament where we are the defending champion."

Ateneo, which finished fifth in the first conference, trained in Thailand and brought along Lithawat Kesinee.

The Lady Stags will be bringing back Most Valuable Player Jaroensri Bualee, also a Thai.

La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus said the second conference will be an adjustment period for them.

"Most of my players in the three-peat squad have graduated so the team is practically composed of junior players," said De Jesus.

Games are telecast on a delayed basis over NBN-4 with the Adamson-FEU match to be shown Monday and the UST-La Salle game on Tuesday, starting at 2 p.m. *Romina S. Austria*

Lights, sounds and haircuts usher in PBA, PBL seasons

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

TODAY THE 33rd season of the PBA opens amid the usual pomp and pageantry.

Produced by Solar Entertainment, the two-hour extravaganza will be hosted by Wally and Jose of Eat Bulaga and will feature the latest in high-tech audio-visual presentation (they call it Watchout, according to PBA operations director Rickie Santos). Dance numbers will be provided by the NCAA's champion pep squad Perpetual Help University and the most popular musical bands in the country.

No expense will be spared. Nothing less is expected of the country's premier basketball league.

* * *

Exactly a week from today on Oct. 20, the Philippine Basketball League follows suit and, unlike in the previous years, opening day of the 25th season will be marked with unprecedented fanfare and hoopla.

To start with, it will be a whole-day affair, with activities practically starting at sunrise.

On schedule at 7 a.m. is the plastering of sun visor stickers on windshields and bumpers of cars and public utility vehicles like jeeps, taxis, buses and even tricycles. The stickers will carry the logo of the PBL and V.Go, a powdered energy drink which will be one of the league's two title sponsors.

The other is Extreme Magic Sing.

All the plastering will be done in a gasoline station right across The Arena in San Juan, venue of the PBL opening.

* * *

From the gas station, action shifts to the Arena at 10 a.m., where fans will be treated to cool air-conditioning and a movie or two from Viva Classics while they munch on snacks provided by the PBL.

Just before lunchtime, Ricky Reyes' 10 finest hairdressers will troop to the Arena to render their services *pro bono*. So if you need a haircut and do not have the money for one, you're most welcome to drop by this Saturday, around 11:00 a.m.

I suppose one of the offices around The Arena will be temporarily converted to a hair salon.

If you're still hungry after all the snacks provided by the league, that's too bad because you'll have to buy your own lunch.

Now if you don't have the money to buy lunch, you can listen to live music from Bloomfields, Sandwich, Blue Ketsup and Mark Bautista who will perform in a concert during the opening program which starts at 1 p.m.

At least your soul won't go hungry. Music, they say, is food for the soul.

* * *

So what do the fans do after the dizzying hoopla? Well they finally get to watch the games.

But not before the officers of the PBL like commissioner Chino Trinidad, his deputies Tommy Ong and Butch Maniego get to parade their new business suits compliments of Made to Measure, one of the PBL's 33 partner sponsors.

Gosh, am I impressed. It sure was a sound move on *Kume* Chino's part to recruit marketing man Jack Ruby, who used to be the marketing manager of the PBA, for the PBL.

SPORTSWATCH

Casimiro, Aquino firm up title hopes

MIKE CASIMIRO AND OLIVER AQUINO OF ALESSANDRA RACING FIRMED up their title bids with victories in their respective divisions recently in the seventh and penultimate leg of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series at the Boomland Kart Track, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex in Pasay City. Casimiro, who immediately flew to Italy for the 2007 ROK World Cup, bagged another win in the ROK Seniors division to fortify his grip of the lead over 02 Karting teammate Ken Monzones and Cebuano Kaine Gandionco. Aquino turned back Indy Villalon of Birel Motorsports and Vencer John Suba of Jet Racing for his third consecutive victory in the Formula SL Expert class after ruling the past two races at the Enchanted Kingdom and at the Kart Zone in Cebu.

Fistorama airs PCSO bouts tonight

FISTORAMA WILL START AIRING IN ITS NEW TIME SLOT TONIGHT starting at 10 p.m. on NBN-4. The popular weekly boxing show features three exciting amateur bouts. Fistorama's bouts are part of the PCSO Amateur Boxing Championships held every two months at the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig City. Fistorama is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel, ANC/Kapamilya TV. Fistorama is supported by PCSO, Tanduay and Mapecon. Golf Power Plus follows immediately at 11 p.m.

LGBA 7-stag derby finals up

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) 7-STAG DERBY circuit will resume at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 16 and 18. Seeing action in the championship rounds, backed by B-Meg, are qualifiers in the second leg held at Lucky Sports Complex and Araneta, according to LGBA president Rene Diaz. Meanwhile, LGBA members also gear up for the Heritage Cup National 9-stag derby on Nov. 5 and 7 at the San Juan Coliseum.

Pasig 5-stag derby finals today

THE TOP BREEDER OF RIZAL PROVINCE FOR 2007 WILL BE KNOWN TOday as the Rizal Gamecock Breeders Association (RGBA) 5-stag derby circuit gets underway at the Pasig Square Garden. More than 50 fights will spice the 3-stag finale beginning at 5 p.m. RGBA president Joey Sy said cash prizes and trophies await the Gamecock Breeder of the Year as well as the Stagfighter of the Year.

YOUTH BADMINTON: Toby's Sports operations manager Toby Claudio (center), tournament organizer Dina Guerrero (left) and Dunlop's Cecille Reyes sign the contract for the staging of the 2007 Youth Badminton Championship starting Oct. 27 at the West Drive Badminton Center.

Guba destroys foe; Lazaro buries Malaysian

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LEANDER LAZARO AND MARTINA Jonicka Guba trounced their respective foes to capture the singles titles yesterday in the Agra Cup-Asian 14/U Series at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Lazaro, the 14-year-old junior high from St. James Academy Malabon, took the sting out of the Malaysian top-seed Ariez Elyaas Dean Hashsam's crisp groundstrokes to fashion out a 6-4, 6-2 triumph in the boys singles championships.

Standing at 5-foot-9, Lazaro forced Hashsam to scurry from end to end and then bamboozled the Malaysian with feathery drop shots every now and then to secure the triumph.

Over at court 1, Guba endured the pain of ruptured blisters on both feet to overcome Sally Mae Siso, 6-1, 7-5, and annex the girls singles title. The 14-year-old from La Carlota City slumped to the ground after after Siso slammed a forehand into the net and quickly took off her problematic shoes before shaking hands with her victim.

"*Ang hirap po talaga, nagputukan yung mga paltos ko—apat sa* right, *tatlo sa* left (It was very hard, my blisters burst—four on my right and three on my left)," said the third-year high from Dona Hontencia Salas Benedicto High.

The youngest of three tennis playing brood that include former age-group champions Yannick and Yohann thus took her 18th title this year.

Guba and Siso, who professed to being best of friends and even shared lunch after their match, late Friday snared the doubles title against Marian Hillary de Guzman and Theiviya Selvarajoo, 6-1, 6-3.

In the boys doubles, Hashsam and compatriot Mohd Assri Merzuki defeated Angelo Rivero and Alberto Villamor, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, to take the crown yesterday.

Lazaro and Guba thus earned a single-round ticket to the Bahrain leg of the series.

GUBA: Injured and all. PDI FILE PHOTO

Angeles trips Ateneo, gains Petron final

ANGELES UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION RALLIED TO BEAT ATENEO DE MANILA, 27-25, 25-20, 19-25, 20-25, 11-15, yesterday and gain a finals berth in the Petron Treats Boys Volleyball League at the Colegio de San Lorenzo Sports Complex in Congressional Avenue, Quezon City. Teejay Due, Jerome Sibal, Patrick Pamintuan combined for 61 points, including 28 kills, to power AUF to victory in the event supported by Shakey's, Toby's Sports, Dunkin' Donuts, Mikasa and Asics. AUF seeks the title at 4 p.m. today against the winner of the other semifinal pitting Canossa-Lipa against University of the East, which was still going on at press time. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Jaca-Miyagi bout spices up WBC convention

A FIGHT WHOSE PROMOTER CALLS a "fan's dream" will be scheduled right smack in the middle of the WBC's 45th annual convention, which the country will host in November at the Manila Hotel.

Filipino Jimrex Jaca and Japan's Ryu Miyagi will engage in a grudge rematch to spice up a fight card that will be held on Nov. 14 at the Rajah Sulaiman Park in Manila.

The WBC Convention, which will be attended by hundreds of boxing personalities all over the world, is slated Nov. 11 to 17.

The Games and Amusements Board, headed by its chair Eric Buhain, is the lead agency being tapped to oversee this year's hosting of the annual conclave.

Jaca versus Miyagi should be an explosive encounter, considering the nature of their first outing on August 25 at the SM Mall of Asia where both combatants exchanged knockdowns in the opening round before the fight was stopped in the second round due to an accidental clash of heads.

"This card is going to be every fight fan's dream show," said promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, who is helping put up this highly-anticipated card.

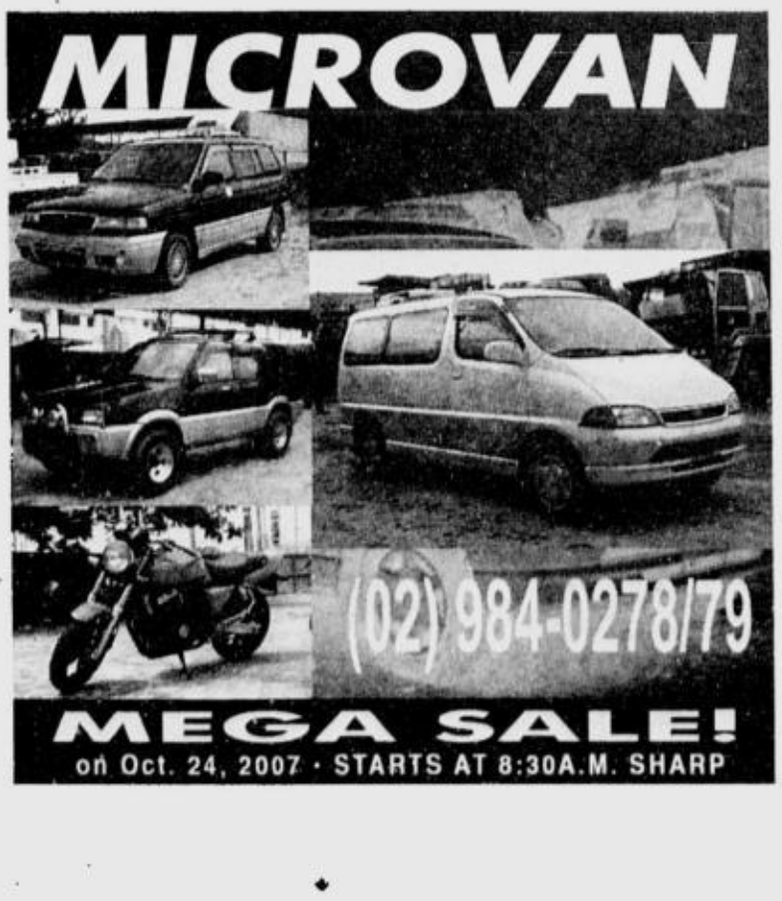
Also on tap are three Philippine title bouts, added Salud.

RP super featherweight king Dodie Boy Agrabio will put his title on the line against top contender Aaron Melgarejo.

RP super bantamweight champ Jake Verano of Bukidnon will also defend his title against Jun Talape.

Big boys Dondon Sultan and Arniel Tinampay, another Pacquiao sparmate, are also set to collide for the vacant RP welterweight title.

The grandson of the great Flash Elorde, Juan Martin "Bai" Elorde, is also being slated to see action in a four-rounder, as well as Japanese Naozumi Tsuchiyama, who is making a name for himself by bucking his physical handicap and fighting able-bodied fighters. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*



Manotoc GDAP's golf personality of the year

TOMMY MANOTOC, A NOTED BASKETball coach who has also carved his name into local golf lore, will be awarded the Golf Personality of the Year trophy by the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines during the 12th Philippine International Golf Show slated Oct. 19-21 at the SM Megamall.

Despite being a decorated amateur golfer, Manotoc refused to turn professional, opting instead to powering his Canlubang squad into becoming the most dominant team in the annual PAL Interclub tournament.

The former national amateur champion and many-time member of the Philippine team is currently the general manager of the Calatagan Golf Club where he maintains a stable of crack talents some of whom have made it to the current national team.

He initiated the establishment of the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation which put up the National Caddies Open.

MANOTOC

The Show that will bring together all the local distributors of the world's biggest brands will also be highlighted by the launch of www.pilipinas-golf.com, the joint website of INQUIRER GOLF and Golf Digest Philippines.

There will also be side events that include a seminar on 'How to set up a Golfpro Shop' by Ricky de Vera, putting green and hitting booths plus the price discounts and other gimmicks that have become regular fare in the past decade of Asia's longest-running golf show.

Sponsors are pouring in with the special participation of the American Eye Center as silver sponsor and Revicon Max, Metrobank Platinum and Megatrade Hall as bronze sponsors.

PARTICIPATING BOOTHS AND EXHIBITORS: Acro Industrial Development & Construction Corporation, Aetna Enterprises, Atendido Marketing, Besa's Shoes, Inc., Dunlop Slazenger, Electrobus Consolidated, Inc., Gainer's Marketing Corporation, Golf King, Golfpro International Ltd., Kart Plaza, Pacsports Philippines, Inc., Raymundo's Trophies, Transview Golf Philippines, Inc. and WS Sports, Inc., Business Handlers Marketing, Capital Gainers Enterprises, Dynamic Sports Corp., Fitness First, G&W Clubshares, Inc., GG&A Club Shares Brokers, Inc., GT Turfworks, GBSEA (Global Brands, Phils.), Malaysian Tourism Board, Nam's Golf, New Smart Formulae Trading Corp., Pacific Sports Network (Taylormade), Pagcor, PGA Tours, Philippine Tourism Authority, Nivea, Rudy Project and Thunderbird Resorts.

So bounces back, brings down Israeli

FILIPINO WESLEY SO BEAT FELLOW Internatioal Master Sasha Kaplan of Israel late Friday to bounce back in contention in the 2007 World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the T. Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

The 14-year-old So, pulled down by back-to-back losses in the seventh and eighth rounds, was threatening mate when Kaplan resigned after 45 moves of a Four Knights Game.

So raised his total to 6.0 points and shared 7th to 13th places with Grandmaster Victor Laznicka of Czech Republic, GM Dmitry Andreikin of Russia, GM Parimarjan Negi of India, IM Gopal Narayanan of India, IM Marcus Ragger of Austria and tenth round opponent IM Abhijeet Gupta of India.

Top seed GM Wang Hao of China trounced overnight solo leader GM Ahmed Adly of Egypt after 60 moves of a Sicilian Defense to draw level with Adly at 7.0 points.

Armenian GM Arman Pashikian bested Israeli GM Maxim Rodshtein after 38 moves of a Slav Defense to score 6.5 points, the same output of German GM Georg Meier, Russia GM Ivan Popov and Armenian IM Grigoryan Avetik.

In the Girl's 20 and under division, WIM Vera Nebolsina of Russia trounced WGM Sabrina Vega of Spain to remain on top with 8.0 points.

At solo second with 7.5 points is IM Dronavili Harika of India who defeated compatriot WGM Sanjay Karavade.

Filipino Woman National Master Aices Salvador yielded to WFM Klaudia Kulon of Poland and was mired at 4.0 points.

The 17-year-old La Salle management student will face WIM Khaled Mona of Egypt in the tenth round.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Standings after round 9: 7.0—GM Wang Hao (China), GM Ahmed Adly (Egypt); 6.5 points—GM Arman Pashikian (Armenia), GM Georg Meier (Germany), GM Ivan Popov (Russia), IM Grigoryan Avetik (Armenia); 6.0 points—**IM Wesley So** (Philippines), GM Victor Laznicka (Czech Republic), GM Dmitry Andreikin (Russia), GM Parimarjan Negi (India), IM Gopal Narayanan (India), IM Marcus Ragger (Austria), IM Abhijeet Gupta (India)

THE COLORADO Rockies' Willy Taveras (bottom) beats Arizona Diamondback Tony Clark's pickoff attempt at first. Taveras' walk in the 11th inning gave the Rockies a 3-2 victory and a 2-0 edge in their best-of-seven series against the Diamondbacks in the National League. The Boston Red Sox opened their series against the Cleveland with a 10-3 rout of the Indians. AP

Cebu, Marikina face off; Makati battles Manila IX

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Baseball Complex*)
7 a.m.—Taguig vs Dumaguete
10:30 a.m.—Manila vs Makati
2 p.m.—Cebu vs Marikina

CEBU AND MARIKINA SLUG IT OUT TODAY in a clash of opening day winners while defending champion Makati tries to gain a share of the lead as it takes on Manila in the Baseball Philippines' Series 2 at the Rizal Memorial baseball grounds.

Marikina surprised Manila, a semifinalist in the pilot series of the league put up by Community Sports Inc., with an abbreviated 10-0 victory last week.

Cebu, on the other hand, proved too hot to handle for a debuting Dumaguete side, 16-1, in a big start by the Dolphins in the league, backed by Purefoods, Gatorade, Mizuno, Harbour Centre and Industrial Enterprises.

The Shoemakers and the Dolphins tangle in the 2 p.m. main game of another triple-bill of this weekend tournament also serving as training venue for members of the national team seeing action in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in December.

Taguig, which absorbed a 0-10 beating from Makati, and Dumaguete face each other in the 7 a.m. opener while Makati is all geared up against Manila in their keenly-awaited clash at 10:30 a.m.

"It's going to be an interesting match," said Marikina coach Randy Dizer, who boasts of seven pitchers in his squad.

Bike stars eye Asean slots

THE SEARCH FOR THE PHILIPPINE RIDERS to the prestigious Yamaha Asean Cup in Malaysia is on.

Ernie Leongson, president of EL Racing Tech, will be staging the Road to the Asean Cup-Philippine Yamaha Cup 2007 today at the Carmona Racing Circuit in order to select the members of the Philippine team for the Asian tourney slated Dec. 14-16 in Malaysia.

Leongson, a multi-titled motocross rider during his heydays, is spearheading the drive, with the sanction of the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA).

The one-day racing extravaganza will stake titles in the Novice and Expert Divisions.

The Philippine Yahama Cup team will be composed of eight riders, five in the Novice division, and three in the Expert category.

For details, contact Leongson at 0917-8837643 or Ryan Jude Camus at 0917-8018366.

The Yamaha ASEAN Cup provides the region's top riders to polish their skills and hopefully prepare them for the World GP of road racing.

Irene's Fantasy leads tough field

CARMONA, CAVITE—IRENE'S FANTASY banners a crack field that includes two of last year's juvenile champions in the centerpiece Derby race today of a grand Klub Don Juan Festival at the ultra-modern San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

The three-year-old bay filly has shown fine form of late and will be sent off as the first pick even as Defiant and Deputy Stravinsky loom as strong longshot bets.

Defiant, a tested stayer who came from the back of the pack to rule last year's Grand Championship, and colt's winner Deputy Stravinsky are among those chasing the P900,000 champion's purse.

The filly Defiant, an entry from the mighty Hermie Esguerra stables, will be ridden by Jeffryl Zarate when she shoots for a follow-up to that smashing win against a classy field that includes imports from the US, New Zealand and Australia.

Antonio Alcasid rides Irene's Fantasy, another stayer who has been riding a wave of victories, while Louie Balboa handles Deputy Stravinsky, the upset winner last year.

Post time for the Derby is around 6:30 p.m., and by that time, Zarate could already be shooting for his second victory after he partners Indelible Ink in the Juvenile Fillies' race earlier.

Indelible Ink again looks unbeatable in the Fillies' race, coming into this latest match with a five-race winning streak capped by a swashbuckling performance in the local series two weeks ago.

Weder Weder Lang, who will be steered by Jimo Tinte, looms as the chief threat to Indelible Ink, who will have a couple in Anonymous to be handled by Patty Dilema in the 1,400-meter race that offers P300,000 to the winner.

A wide-open Colts' race, meanwhile, will be flagged off at 5:25 p.m. *Musong R. Castillo*

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—pabilic Express (4), Bullish Dream (5), Expiditer (6), El Cid (3)
Race 2—Royal King (4), Bad Boy (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Now Showing (4), Valild Hazm (3), Speed Admiral (1), Virgin Island (6)
Race 4—(Tri)—Anonymous/Indelible Ink (4), Weder Weder Lang (5), Pali (6)
Race 5—(Tri)—Heroics (1), Lucky B Lucky (2), Million Dollar (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Red Diamond (3), Amazing Pace (1), Demolition Jack (6), Seniority (4)
Race 7—Unopposed (1), He's The Man (2), Bohemian Dave (5), Santo Santito (3)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Danehill Dave (2), Baling Ganda (5), Odessey (6), Dixie Dash (4), Lord Brian (7)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Irene's Fantasy (3), My Happiness (10), No Fear (5), Deputy Stravinsky (6), Traditional (1), Copper Dew (2)
Race 10—(Tri)—Iron Heart (3), Heroine (2), Itza Lemon (5)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Ever Mine Now (4), Wild Orchid (6), La Tienne (3), Great Emma (2)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Hello Jeanette (3), Kalmia (4), When We're Flying (6), Material World (1)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Don Palo (9), Virginia (6), Cool Town (5), Ocean Deep (3), Barawanawest (4), Yotedigo (2)

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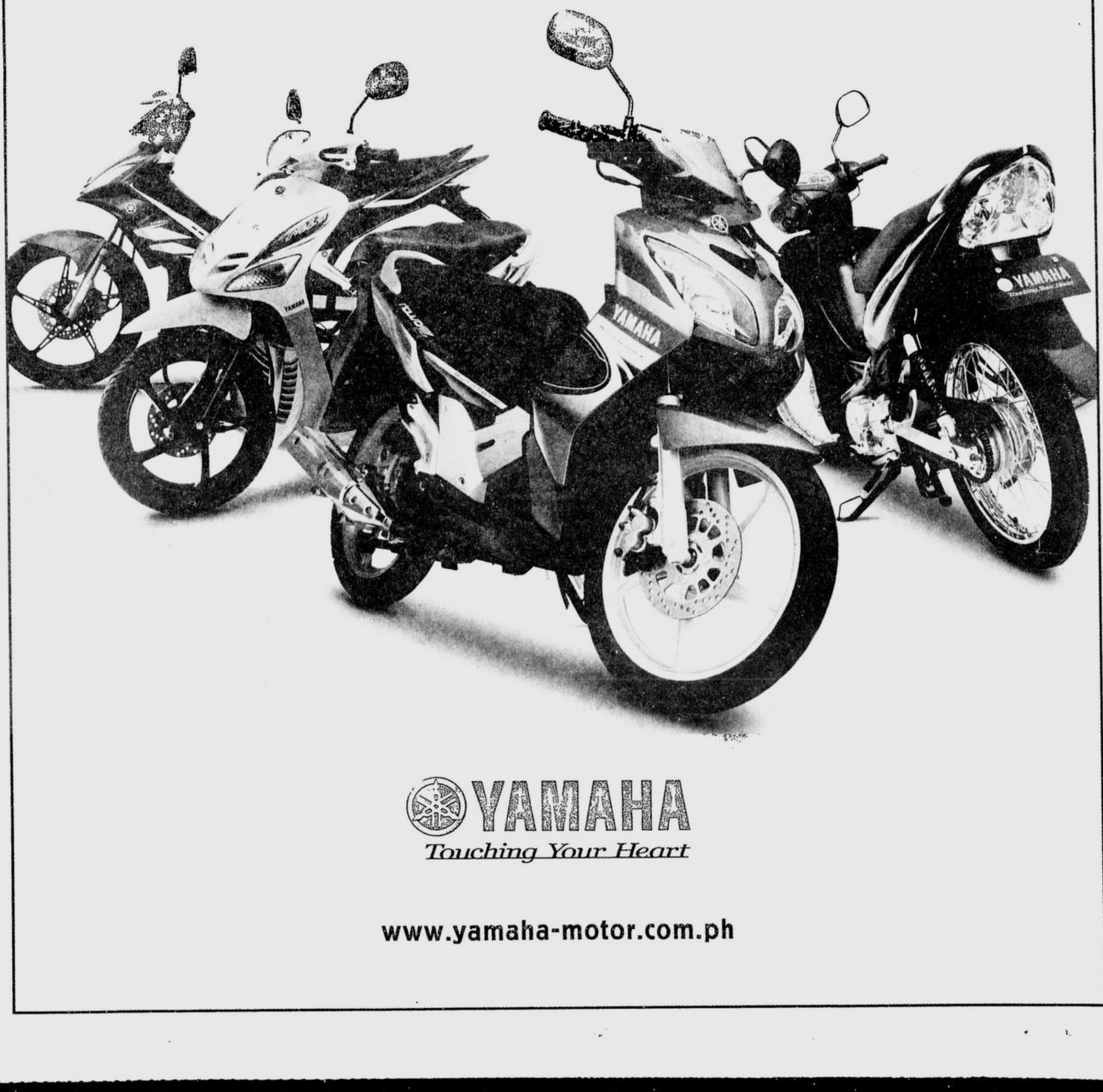

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SM innovations for handicapped /B3

There's a trade-off to fame, success

Top executive held on to a lowly job to get to the top. *Story on Page B2*

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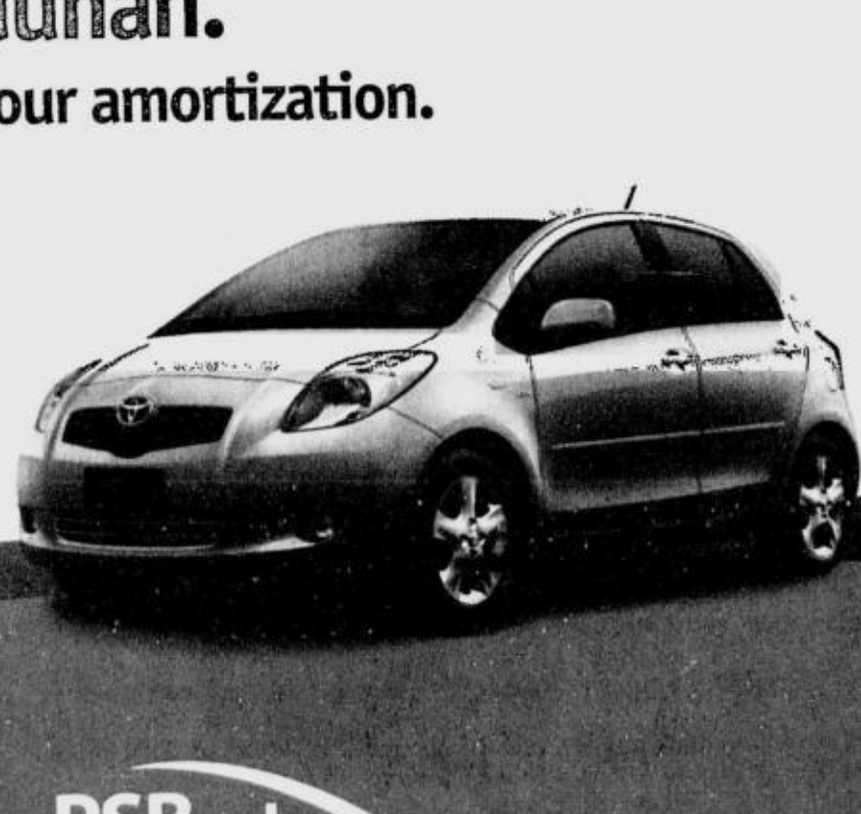

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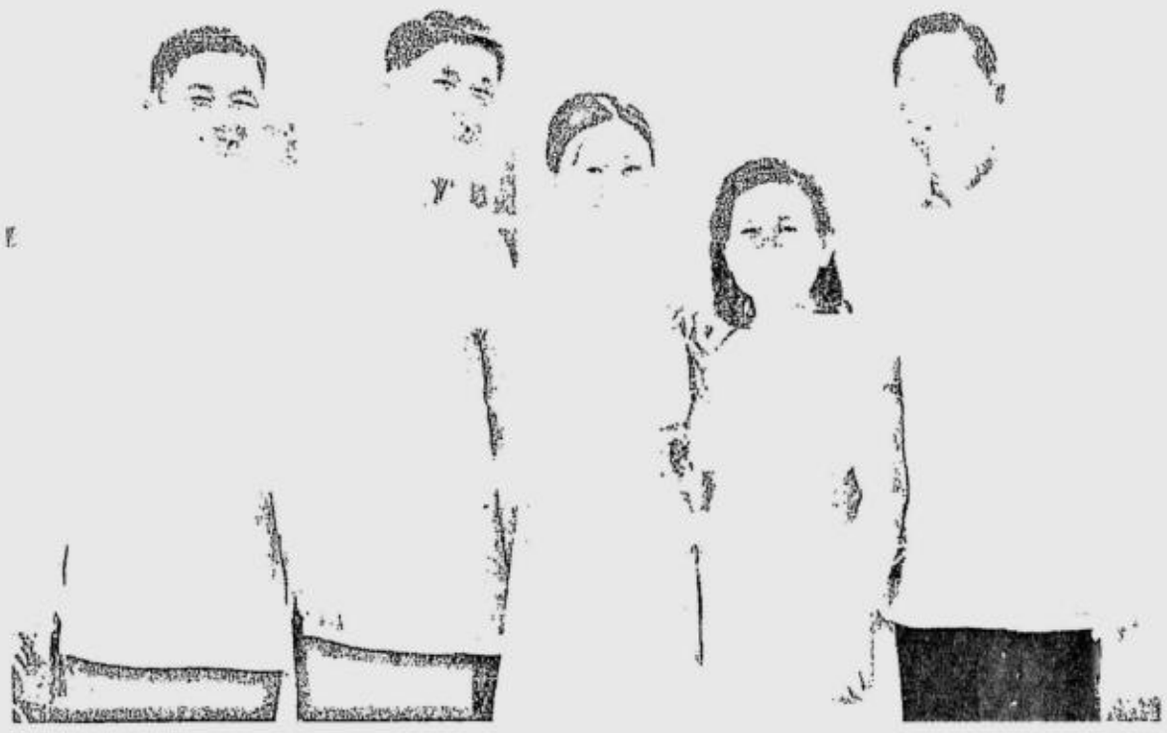
There's a trade-off to fame, success

Top exec Roberto Manabat held on to a lowly job to get to the very top

By Daxim L. Lucas

MANABAT



FAMILY PHOTO: With children Ronald, Robbie, Roselle, and wife Baby.

LIKE MANY PEOPLE NOW AT the top of corporate ladders, Roberto G. Manabat had humble beginnings.

And as beginnings go in the corporate world, being employed as a lowly trainee at accounting firm Sycip Gorres & Velayo was among the most humble available at that time.

"When I started in 1969, we got paid P250 a month," he said in an interview.

At a time when a jeepney ride cost only 10 centavos, this was, by no means, an insignificant amount. But it was much lower than what a man of Manabat's caliber could earn even at a young age.

"You could have easily gotten two or three times more had you worked in another firm, like a multinational," he said.

Indeed, the man who now chairs accounting firm Manabat Sanagustin & Co.—the local partner of KPMG International—could probably have chosen to work in better paying jobs right after he got out of college.

He did, after all, graduate magna cum laude of the University of the East's Business Administration class in 1968. He also went on to place sixth in the board examinations for certified public accountants in that same year.

Eyes on the prize

But Manabat had his eyes on the prize even as early as that time. His goal was no less than to become a partner of SGV, which was already the most illustrious accounting firm in the country.

FIRST JOB

Once he was hired, he knew that he did not only have to put up with the low pay. He also had to put in long hours.

"You have to establish a goal for yourself, and I pictured myself as a partner," he said. Explaining the philosophy that pervades SGV thinking to this day, he described the long hours as part of the training that budding accountants willingly submit themselves to.

"People who wanted to become partners understood that trade off," he said.

During the long climb to the top, Manabat said that many of his fellow travelers along the corporate path chose to leave for better paying jobs in other firms, but he persevered.

"Later on, you'll be able to surpass them even financially [by staying at SGV]," he recalls telling himself when he was courted by other employers.

And he did.

He became an SGV partner in 1981 all the way until 2001, when he was promoted further to senior adviser.

While at SGV, he handled the company's largest insurance industry accounts and was also its audit group head for over nine years, supervising up to seven other partners.

He was also a member of the company's management committee, and even represented the firm at the office of its New York-based correspondent firm for two years.

All told, he spent a total of 32 years with the accounting firm.

Government service

After this, Manabat went on to government service, working with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)—the country's top corporate watchdog—for a total of four years (three years as its general accountant and one year as a consultant).

His SEC stint, according to Manabat, was his way of giving back to society by applying his knowledge and experience to help improve the local accounting landscape.

He could not have come at a better time, as his stint at the SEC was marked by deep changes in the global accounting landscape through revisions in what is known as the International Accounting Standards (IAS).

The changes were difficult and painful for Philippine firms—including many of the largest—which were long used to murky accounting practices that allowed them to make their books look better than they really were.

"My experience at the SEC was a good break," he said. "I came in at a time of change in the profession."

Zeal for work

He said he enjoyed this period—despite the relatively lower pay of government service—because it gave him the chance to influence policies that would improve the broader society.

Despite his zeal for his work, Manabat stresses that he is a dyed-in-the-wool family man.

"I am very proud of my family," he said.

His wife, whom he met on the job, has had a successful career rising through the ranks of the local unit of a UK-based bank.

"My daughter was the valedictorian of her class at Philippine Science High School, was a medical board topnotcher and is now a resident in a prestigious hospital in Philadelphia, USA," he said, describing her as the apple of his eye.

"My two sons were also honor graduates in college and are employed in choice companies here and abroad," he added.

Out of retirement

Having hurdled a long SGV career and government service, he retired in 2005, only to be lured back by his first professional love soon after that.

What made him come out of retirement to head the new group that acquired the local KPMG partner?

"I thought it would be a good cap [for one's career] to be the chair of one of the Big Four [accounting] firms," he said.

Despite lending his illustrious reputation to the firm, however, Manabat Sanagustin & Co. faces a hard slog uphill as it fights tooth and nail with equally prestigious rivals for a piece of the local corporate action.

"We want to spread the gospel of KPMG. We want to be the firm of choice," he said, outlining his goals for the company. "We want our clients to have alternatives."

WHAT remains of this bangus after a meal can now be made into valuable feed for tilapia.
RAY ZAMBRANO/ INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

'Bangus' bones, spines can now be processed into fish feed

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BINMALEY, PANGASINAN—THE processed *bangus* (milkfish) industry is booming in Pangasinan, but it has created a problem involving the disposal of the industry's byproducts such as fish bones and spines.

The Department of Trade and Industry has listed 220 *bangus* processors in Pangasinan, most of them small scale.

Some food processors find use for *bangus* bones by pulverizing and mixing these with cookies and polvoron. But they can only use so much bones, while the industry faces problems on the disposal of unwanted *bangus* parts.

A fish processing plant in San Fabian town turns the bones into fertilizer while small processors have yet to devise a proper disposal system.

"Disposal of the bones is really a problem. There were times I see *bangus* bones being thrown into the Pantal River," said Natalie Basco of the DTI.

The Pangasinan State University's business operations management center has been making polvoron using processed *bangus* bones but only on a very limited scale.

"There are plenty of *bangus* processors so there are plenty of wasted fish parts," said Rosie Abalos, associate dean of the PSU College of Fisheries here.

To turn the problem into an opportunity, three PSU fishery students tried creating fish meal using *bangus* bones and spines and came out with a feed formula that can be used for tilapia, another fish cultured in the province.

Abalos oversaw the experiments conducted by Dan Clark Rosario, May Anne Catabay and Efren Soy on the use of *bangus* bones and spines in formulating the feed for tilapia.

"When we collected the *bangus* byproducts, the processors were very happy. They said they do not have to throw them away," he said.

The students formulated feeds using three different quantities of *bangus* bones and spines—preparations with 20 percent, 25 percent and 30 percent of bones and spines.

The experimental feed's other ingredients were wheat flour, vitamin and mineral mix, vegetable oil, soybean meal and rice bran.

The feed was in pellet form, sun dried for three days and packed in plastic containers.

They also used a brand of commercial feed to compare the reception of the cultured tilapia to the new fish feed in the experiment conducted at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Research Center in Dagupan City.

The study revealed that the formulation with 25 percent *bangus* bones and spines was the most effective.

Besides, the introduction of the experimental feed for saline tilapia in ponds did not affect the quality of the pond water, Abalos said.

The study recommended the use of *bangus* bones and spines as feed ingredient for saline tilapia using both the 20 and 25 percent formulation as they provided better growth of fish, higher survival rate and more efficient feed conversion rates, Abalos said.

The laboratory tests conducted by the Department of Science and Technology in San Fernando City showed that 100 grams of boiled *bangus* bones contain 34 grams of protein and 25.7 grams of crude fat.

Westly Rosario, BFAR Research Center chief, said if the fish meal is commercialized, it could have a tremendous impact on the aquaculture industry because it is less expensive than imported feed.

Cultured fish is usually fed with feeds that use imported ingredients, thus are expensive, he said.

Expenses for fish feed constitute 60 percent of the operational cost of aquaculture and generally is the most expensive component of the industry.

Rosario, however, said while there are many *bangus* processors in Pangasinan, the waste products are not enough yet to manufacture feeds to meet the demands of the fishery industry in the province.

Authentic apologies

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

"I AM SORRY." WHAT MAKES IT SO hard to say those words? They seem so simple, yet we've been fighting against saying them since we were kids.

"Say you're sorry," a parent commanded us. Maybe we had stolen a toy from a friend, had spoken a bad word in front of guests, or had hit a sibling.

Stomping over to the offended party, we would mutter, "I'm sorry," as quickly and quietly as possible, as if the apology was physically painful to say.

Our human nature cringes to admit guilt. We hate to be wrong, but worse yet, we hate to confess to having wronged others.

That's what made Pope John Paul II's apology spectacular on March 12, 2000. In a speech at St. Peter's Basilica, the aged pope asked forgiveness for a list of sins committed by the Catholic Church.

The confession included the church's sins against other cultures, sins against women and minorities, sins of human rights abuses. Given the Catholic Church's professed position as the authority on faith and morality, the apology is a remarkable admittance of guilt.

We hate to be wrong, but worse yet, we hate to confess to having wronged others.

Universal need to apologize

A leader will inevitably make a mistake. Perhaps a misjudgment of where to allocate finances, maybe a bad decision related to hiring or firing employees, or possibly a lapse in moral judgment.

The mistake may be small and affect only one or two employees. Or, the mistake may be visible and far-reaching, affecting employees, shareholders, partners, and the community. Regardless of the mistake's size and scope, a leader must learn how to apologize.

How not to apologize

The half-apologies of celebrities or public officials are almost laughable. The sound bites are usually as follows, "I regret that my words were misinterpreted," or, "I'm sorry if they felt that way about my actions."

Notice how, in these phrases, the person is not even admitting guilt. Rather, they are almost blaming those they have offended for being unable to properly interpret their words or for being overly sensitive to their behavior.

Tips for apologizing

In her article, "Always Apologize, Always Explain," featured on Oprah.com and CNN.com, Martha Beck offers sound advice for giving an authentic apology.

1. Fully acknowledge the offense

Tell the full account of your misdeeds. Take complete responsibilities for what you did wrong, and as Beck advises, don't avoid the worst truths. Don't put the onus of the offense on the person who was offended, i.e., "I'm sorry they reacted that way." Instead, assume total culpability for having made the offense.

2. Give an explanation

While avoiding justification for your actions, explain why you made the mistakes. Allow your humanity to show. Admit you may need help in an area, maybe it's treatment for substance abuse or counseling for an uncontrollable temper.

3. Express sincere remorse

By recounting the ways your behavior has caused harm, you convey awareness of your misbehavior and its consequences. By doing so, you also communicate sincere regret for what you have done. Apologies should be given, not because they're expected or because the guilty party has been caught, but because the offender has hurt someone and feels bad about having done so.

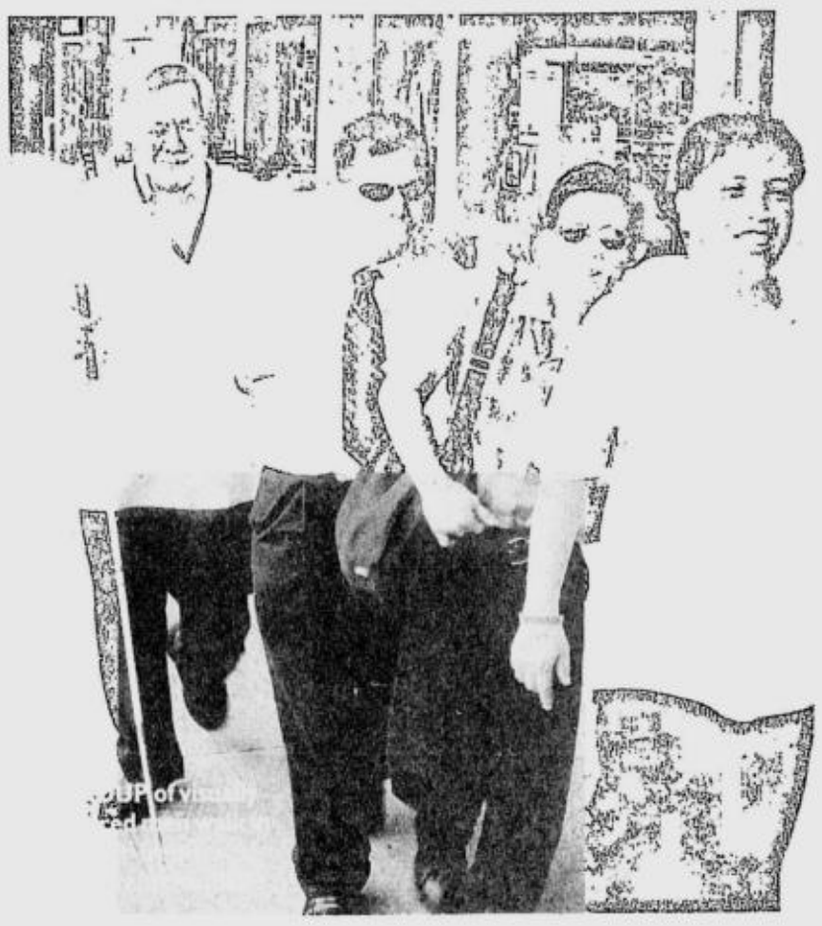
4. Repair damage done

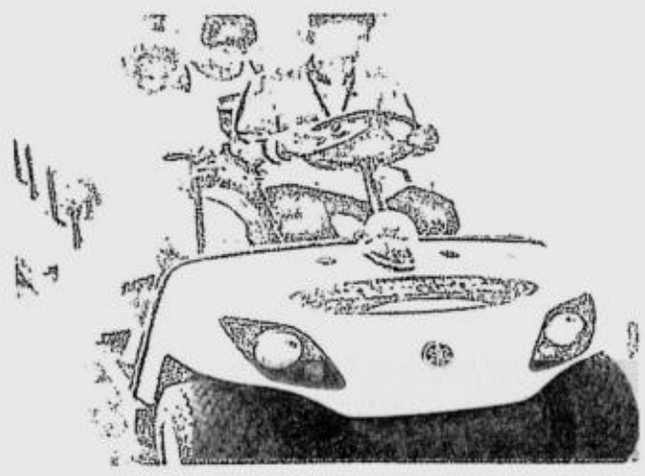
If the damage is tangible, like money embezzled or assets stolen, then the offender should pay back what was taken. Oftentimes, however, the offense creates intangible harm. This happens during an assault on a person's character, a slur against their ethnicity, or a betrayal of their trust.

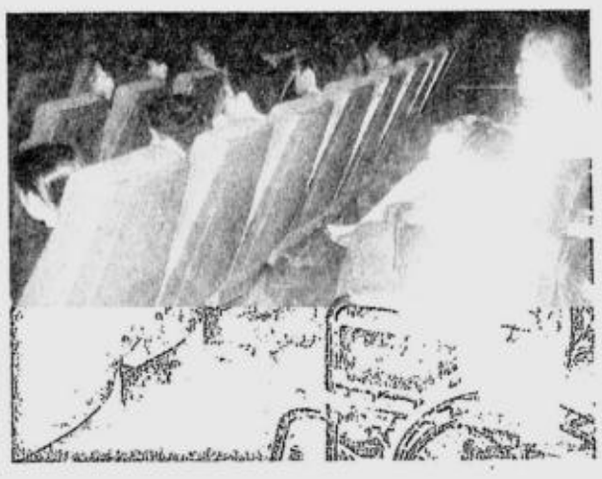
"In such cases," writes Beck, "Your efforts should focus on restoring the other person's dignity." In every instance, your aim should be to make amends.

To read the full text of Martha Beck's article, "Always Apologize, Always Explain," visit http://www.cnn.com/2007/LIVING/personal/07/11/always.apologize/index.html.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing Ericta. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)







RIDES are given to the handicapped and the elderly to move around the mall (left), while the cinemas are retrofitted with wheel-chair slots located by the aisle of the theater (right)

SM innovations for the handicapped

By Princess Daisy C. Ominga

GOING TO THE MALL HAS FAST BECOME A favorite family activity. Whether to eat out, to celebrate, or just have some quality bonding time, the mall has already become an integral part in the family itinerary.

But what about families that have members who are disabled? Or those who need special attention? How can they enjoy a day in the mall without worrying about details that seem irrelevant to others, like a cramped dressing room, but can be a hitch for an otherwise pleasant day in the mall for them?

These are the questions that SM Supermalls is trying to answer. Being the biggest mall chain in the country today, they felt the need to provide their loyal patrons not just the leisure they can have in SM malls, but also a smooth, hassle-free stroll for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their families.

With this in mind, the SM management decided to make innovations in their malls so as to make them more accessible to PWDs. They made adjustments in the toilet facilities, elevators, public phones and signage, entrances and doorways, corridors, stairs, even the drinking fountain. Around the vicinity of the malls they also improved the arrival and parking areas, walkways and ramps, pedestrian lanes for easy transport of wheelchair-bound patrons. They place great emphasis in innovating the malls to provide a safe environment for the handicapped mall-goers.

Knowing how frustrating it is to use ordinary facilities that are not accessible to the handicapped, they designed their amenities in a way that everyone, disabled or not, can benefit from.

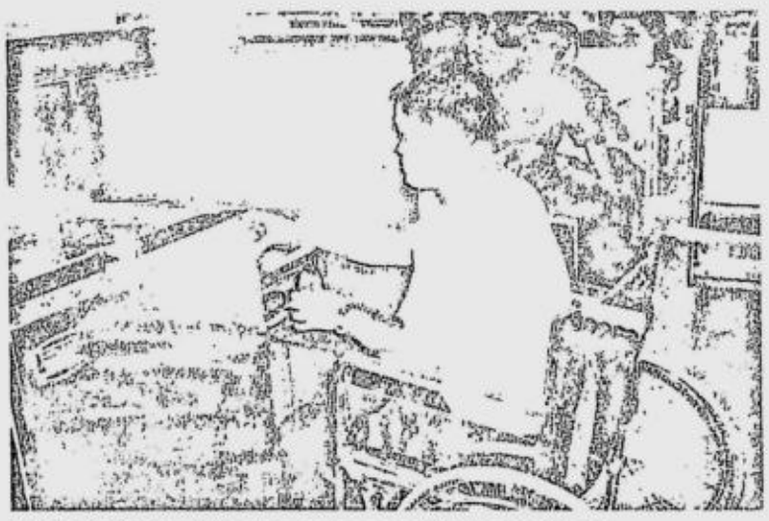
"Many establishments really have ramps for the handicaps, but like the slope, sometimes they're too steep, so we decided that in our malls, it has to be the right height; even in our toilets, we have to have the right fixtures," says Annie S. Garcia, president of SM Supermalls. "Drinking fountains used to be foot-activated, but now even those who are in wheelchair can easily access them," she added.

Service to the family

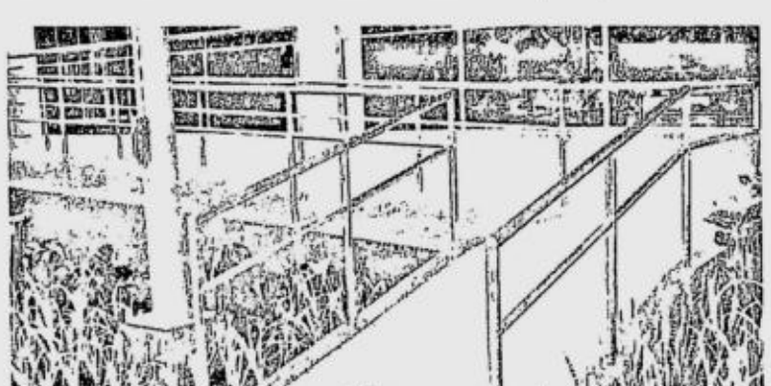
As the family plays a big part in every Filipino, SM decided to help in making people with disabilities and their family enjoy every minute of their stay in SM malls. They acknowledge the responsibility of taking care of every customer who walks into their malls. It is their way of giving back to the community the many blessings and achievements that the mall chain has received over the past 22 years.

They acknowledge that people with special needs also want to go out and have some fun. A very popular pastime is watching movies, and SM addressed this situation by providing space located by the aisle for moviegoers who are in wheelchairs. They no longer need to transfer seats, as they can just watch comfortably in their wheelchair. This is also available in the iMax theaters, and soon even in the Planetarium.

NURSING mothers can now tend to their babies in these stations



DRINKING fountains are made accessible to everybody



RAMPS are made with just the right height for easier steering of wheelchair

Musical talents

Another form of entertainment that SM has started is showcasing the musical talents of handicapped people. Pianists, among others, are quite popular, but they also encourage those who have other disabilities but have the gift in playing musical instruments to participate.

And good manners always come in handy during such activities.

"The audience never go 'Oh, he's blind,' and that's a nice thing, because if people were gushing over them, and feel pity [toward them], that's not exactly what they want. They just wanted to be treated like any normal musician. So they just play their instruments and we all enjoy ourselves," says Garcia.

SM also takes pride in giving employment to people with handicap in some of their facilities, like in the cinemas.

Bien C. Mateo, assistant vice president for operations, shares: "We hire people with handicaps to jobs like, for example, before you enter the theater, there's a person who gets the ticket stub, and all he has to do is to sit and do his job."

Job fairs for the handicapped have also been held successfully inside the malls, and several store concepts have provided employment opportunities for the blind. There are blind masseuses in the malls, and the management is coordinating with some entrepreneurs for businesses that could offer job positions for PWDs aside from the blind.

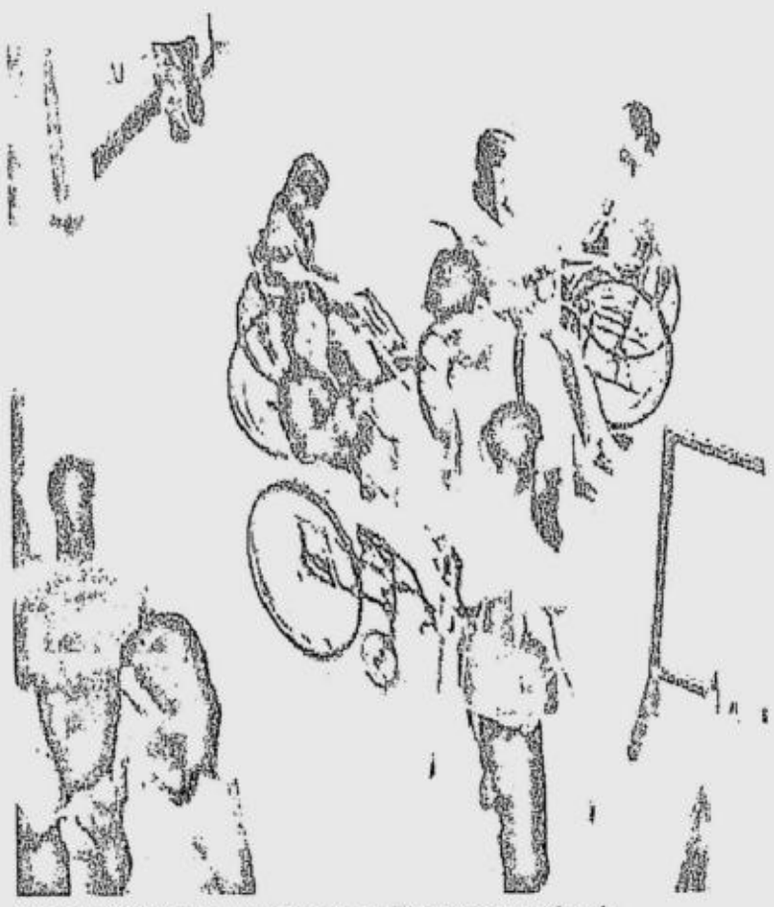
While there are PWDs who are grateful to the mall for catering to their needs, it is a given fact that there will be people with handicap who do not want to be given any special attention to. SM accepts the reality that they cannot please everybody, so they just extend their help whenever needed without interfering with their customers' personal space.

Different views

"There are people who have different views, and we respect them, because we just try to present ourselves as sincerely as we can, but if other people have a different comment about us, for us we like to think it is a [new] learning, that we should learn from their comments and try to see how we can still do better," Garcia says.

On the other hand, there will also be people who do not have any handicaps but insist on using the amenities for PWDs.

To address these people, SM put up signs as clear as they could be to educate the public. There are few exceptions, of course, like pregnant women who really need to go to the bathroom are allowed to use the toilet for the handicapped. But as much as possible, the staff and management try to keep these amenities open and exclusive for people with handicaps.



SM TAKES its role of taking care of its patrons seriously.

One of the goals of the company is to educate not only the public on the proper attitude toward PWDs, but also their own staff. Several nongovernment organizations that deal with people with handicaps have participated in lectures for the SM employees and management.

"We gather the staff, sometimes in a cinema, and we invite speakers from different NGOs, like from the National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled Persons (NCWDP), for the blind, for the deaf, and others like for those with Down syndrome. They teach all of us, even the janitors, security personnel and the tenants' representatives, on how to handle these people when they go in to our environment, how to approach them, and how to help them," Mateo says.

Jimmy Silva, a blind architect and a member of the United Architects of the Philippines, is a regular speaker in these seminars. He is also an active member of the NCWDP, and has visited the SM malls to share his knowledge to the management and employees by providing them with guidelines and directions on coping with people with disabilities.

Breastfeeding stations

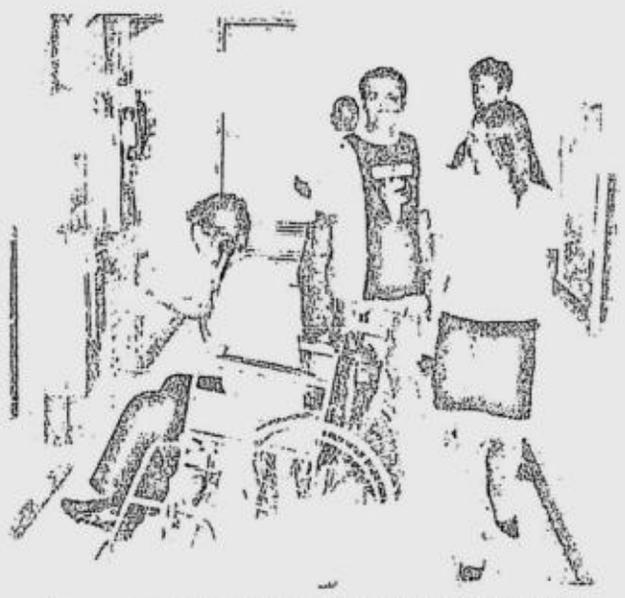
SM has also installed breastfeeding stations within the malls to give privacy and sterile surroundings to nursing moms and their babies. It is up to the mothers to use the rooms, whether for bottle- or breastfeeding, or to change their baby's diaper, the rooms are given as a venue for them to take care of their child's needs.

Aside from the ladies' room, diaper boards are also installed in the men's room, as fathers have also become active in tending to their children. Soon, kiddie urinals and toilet seats will be placed for little boys and girls in the ladies' room.

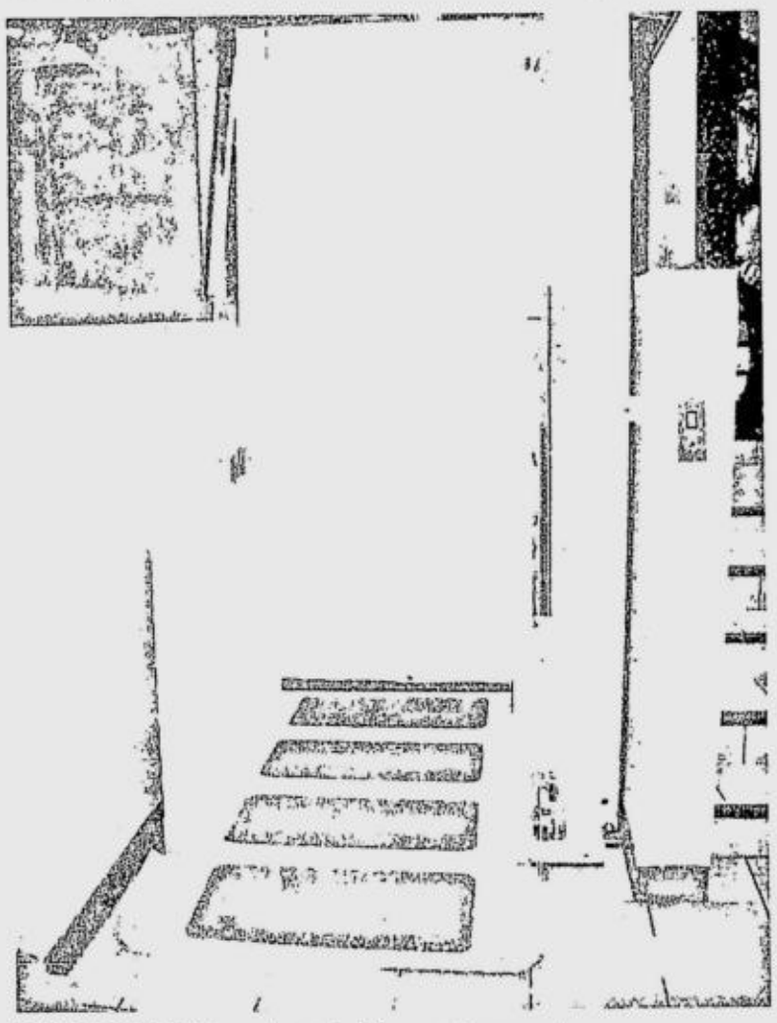
Other innovations in SM malls are the alarm lights, strategically located in case of emergency so that deaf customers can also be warned, priority lanes in the grocery for the handicapped and the elderly, and basic sign language has also been taught to the mall staff. Plans to include captions in movies so that people in the audience who are deaf can really enjoy what they are watching are also underway.

SM was recently invited in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Unescap) to speak for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons conference in Bangkok, where Garcia shared the innovations they have done in providing a handicapped-friendly environment in their malls across the country, as well as other plans on how to improve. The company was widely lauded for these improvements and its sensitivity to the needs of persons with disabilities.

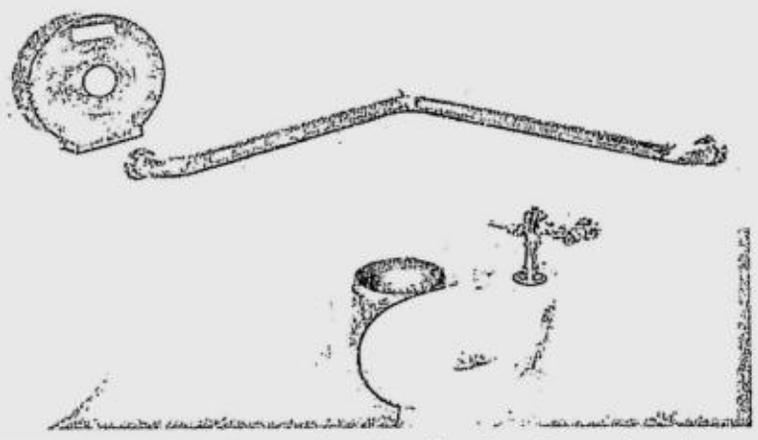
As malls have become a lifestyle among Filipinos, SM wishes to keep PWDs from feeling deprived from enjoying that experience by ensuring that everyone, handicapped or not, feel like any other mall-goers out to have some fun.



SOME payphones are replaced to make it accessible to PWDs



WHEELCHAIR lifts are installed for easy transport



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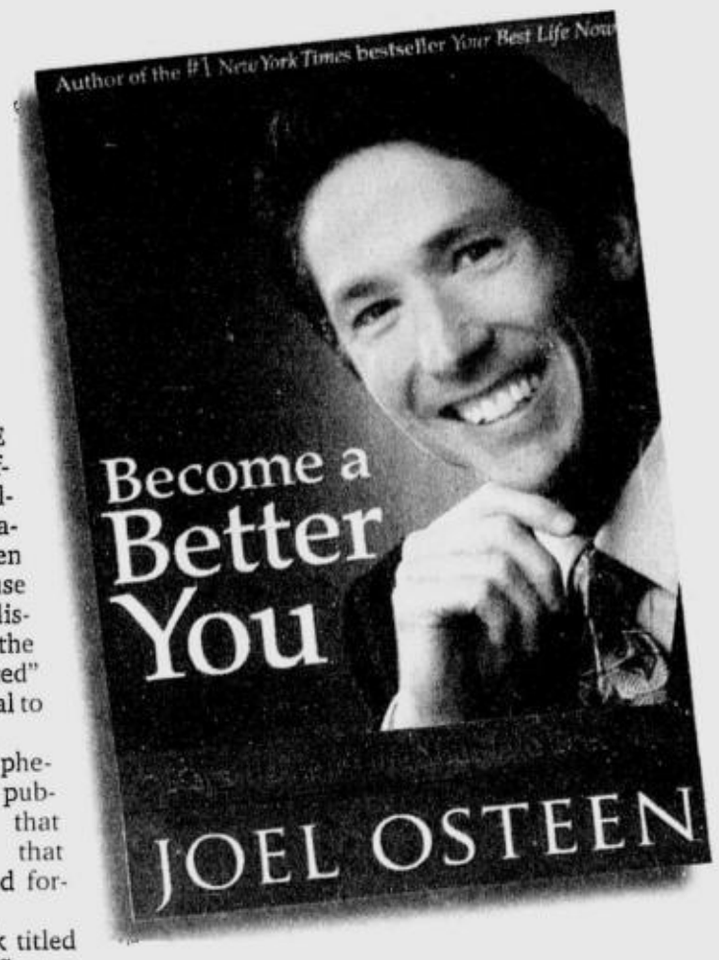
EXECUTIVE READ

"Become a Better You"
By Joel Osteen
Free Press, 2007



By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT THE immense popularity of self-improvement and "feel-good" books is a principal feature of the 21st century, when people—tired of abstruse philosophical and political discussions that appeal to the mind—go for "uncomplicated" books that inspire and appeal to the heart.

And yet a quick review of phenomenal successes in the publishing industry reveals that there had been books that achieved similar fame—and fortune much earlier.

As early as 1936, a book titled "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie was a runaway bestseller. This one book sold 30 million copies worldwide, and still printing.

Another book, "The Power of Positive Thinking" by Norman Vincent Peale was published in 1952, and stayed in the New York Times bestseller list for 186 consecutive weeks. The book has so far sold more than 20 million copies and translated in 42 languages.

There was a dearth of huge successes for a time until a stream of new books came in succession.

Hitting the scene first was the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," written by Stephen Covey, which sold 15 million copies worldwide, since it was published in 1989.

It was followed by "Awaken the Giant Within" and five other books (from 1992 to 2003) by Anthony Robbins which, combined, sold 50 million copies.

And then came the tandem of books in our time that somehow attained universal appeal, never mind that these are protestant preachers: "Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren, and "Your Best Life Now" by Joel Osteen. Both books already sold copies in the millions.

Osteen, Warren's junior by 10 years, is this generation's flavor of the year. And cashing in on his spreading appeal, Osteen has recently published "Become a Better You," easily a fitting sequel to "Your Best Life Now."

The book reveals seven keys to "improving your life every day," a tagline that is as plain as the essential truths the book offers.

You'd say the "seven keys" are not new, and you are right. And yet, drawing from Biblical precepts, Osteen dishes out thoughts that provoke and inspire like the phrase: "the power of your bloodline" and "the generational blessing." The surprise comes when he makes the transition from the physical to the spiritual.

The principle behind "investing in relationships" applies banking principles on personal relationships. And "staying passionate about life" endorses a life of enthusiasm that releases power.

Truths in personal relationships and about attaining success are presented with illuminating stories. Osteen draws a lesson, for example, from the tightrope walker. "What is the key to walking on the tightrope?" Joel asks the athlete. Answer: "The secret is to keep your eyes fixed on where you are going. You never look down. Where your head goes, that's where your body is going. There's a good chance you will fall." Simply said, but powerfully so.

Delivering a truth about "feeding a good habit," Osteen narrates a Cherokee tale that accentuates the positive (sounding like Peale's "positive thinking") but delivers a wallop of a truth.

A Cherokee grandpa advises his grandson: "Son, on the side of every person a battle is raging between two wolves. One wolf is evil. It's angry, jealous, unforgiving, proud and lazy. The other wolf is good. It's filled with love, kindness, humility and self-control."

Grandson asks: "Grandpa, which wolf is going to win?"

Grandpa answers: "Whichever one you feed."

You will discover that the choice parts in the new Osteen book are the stories—with their charm, sincerity and utter simplicity.

If you are looking for literary flourishes, this is not your kind of book. But if you are in search for the unvarnished truth, illustrated by heartwarming stories and illuminated by Biblical passages that have won universal appeal, this could be the book that would enrich family life, perk up existence in the workplace, and provide a new velocity to the race you are running.

The prose is unpretentious and yet the stories, though deceptively simple, brings the truth directly where it counts: Your heart first, then your mind. Before you know it, after reading the book, you come away somehow changed.

One author said it well earlier: "A mind, stretched to a new dimension, will never go back to its original dimension." As Osteen would say it in a so simple way, "stretch to the next level." If the words come in the way, focus on the awesome truth. *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

Life rediscovered in Cavite

Nowadays, people are able to do more with the technology that the modern world could offer. The internet, laptops, mobile devices, mp3 players and other products of the information age have made life easier, connecting individuals closer together and actually making the world smaller.

Filipinos themselves have lesser time to relax and unwind to relieve the stress that one incurs at work. Some may not have time to bond with their families and friends because of their busy schedules. One could say that with so many things to do these days, life itself seems to just fly away.

Fortunately Cavitenos, who are known for their hardworking attitude, rediscovered how to invigorate themselves through their very own local paradise called Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park. The 12 hectare resort and leisure park is formerly known as Covelandia and is known to be a popular tourist destination in the Philippines because of their world-class facilities even gaining the "AAA" rating from the Department of Tourism as an accredited resort and passing the ISO 9001:2000 certification recently.

The island's design is based on the Mediterranean style which translates a relaxing setting for their visitors and clearly reflects mood inside their 113 hotel rooms and cottages that's Wi-Fi enabled and a Jacuzzi ready for use exclusively for their guests. Aside from their hot tubs, Oceania is available for pool lovers and houses 4 big slides within the 2,079sqm pool, with 2 kiddie pools and playgrounds in it.

Health-buffs are not left out here since they also have state of the art exercise equipments in their Gym at the Cove with licensed instructors and even introducing a first-ever exercise program done in the water called Aqua-aerobics. Island Cove has their SportsCove that contains their Bowling and Billiards facilities while they also have Tennis courts, Basketball court, and even a Beach Volleyball court for the sporty types to enjoy.

What's really unique to Island Cove is that it's the only resort that has animals in it. Not in the pool of course but in the Animal Island. Kids and adults alike would enjoy and learn a lot from visiting the animals in their in-house zoo containing tigers, monkeys, and crocodiles where one could even feed or have their pictures taken. The facility also has a butterfly farm, rabbit village, ostrich farm and horse stables wherein they could ride their chosen horses. Animal Island also sells some novelty items such as home grown plants, ostrich eggs, and even some breeds of the animals they have in their farm.

Even with the rainy days going, Island Cove offers some packages for visitors such as their Family, Couples, and Friendship packages for hotel accommodations from October 16, 2007 to February 28, 2008, and the Rain-'Nsuns promo for Oceania for pool enthusiasts.

For more information, you may call Island Cove's Makati sales office at 810-3740, 810-3728, 810-5351 to chat with their friendly agents, or you could also text them at 0920-6257037, 0916-7203339 or 0917-5517776. For online savvy users, you could inquire through email at inquiry@islandcovephil.com and islacove@pldtdsl.net, or visit www.islandcovephil.com

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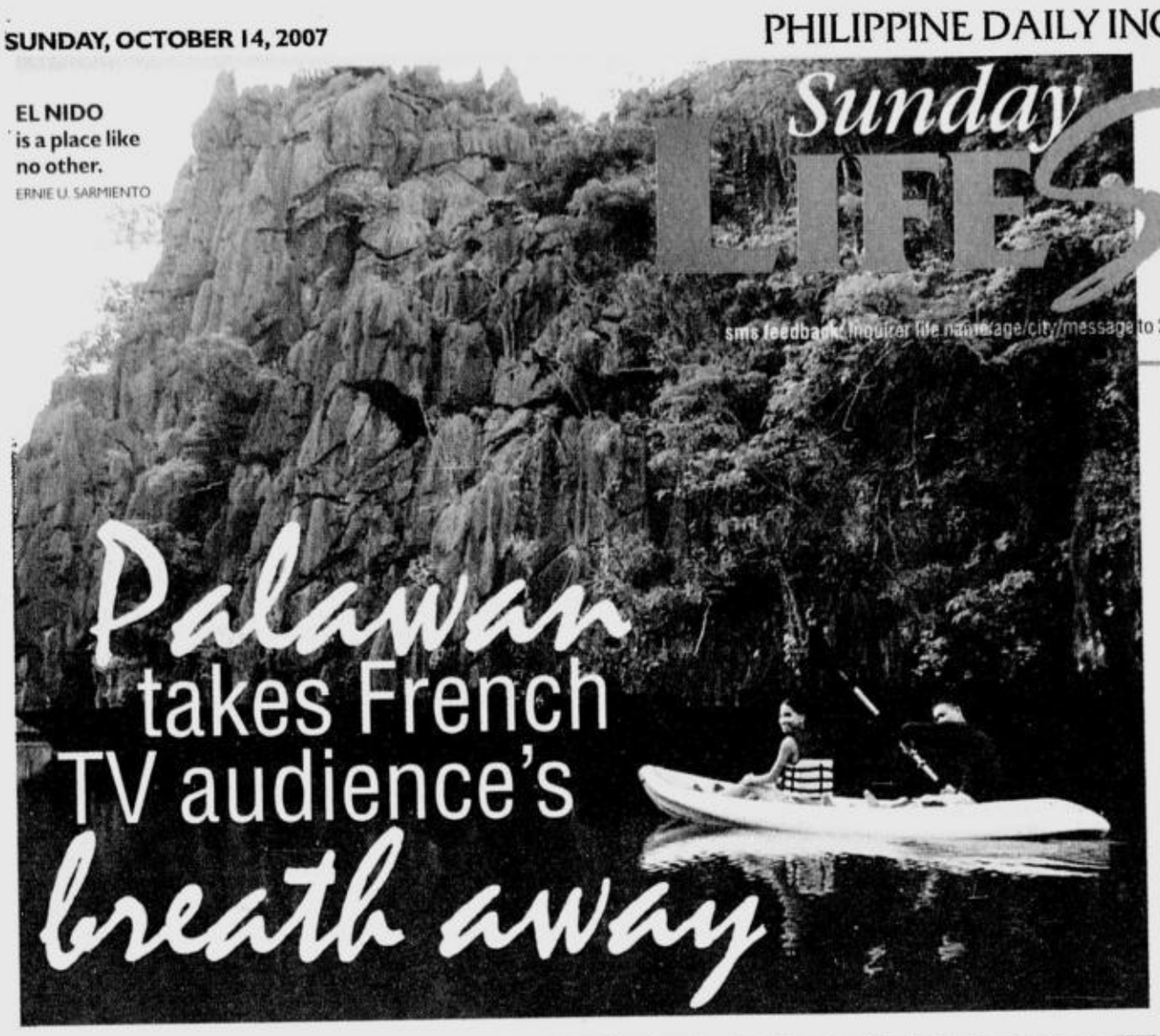

Palawan takes French TV audience's breath away

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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France's version of the 'Survivor' reality TV show rates the Philippines' nature showcase as the world's best

FRENCH host Denis Brogniart and "Koh Lanta" "survivors"

By Alex Y. Vergara

OF ALL THE EXOTIC locales Denis Brogniart and his collaborators have shot in, the host of the top-rated French reality TV show "Koh Lanta," a "Survivor"-like hit show, cited Palawan and New Caledonia as "two of the best."

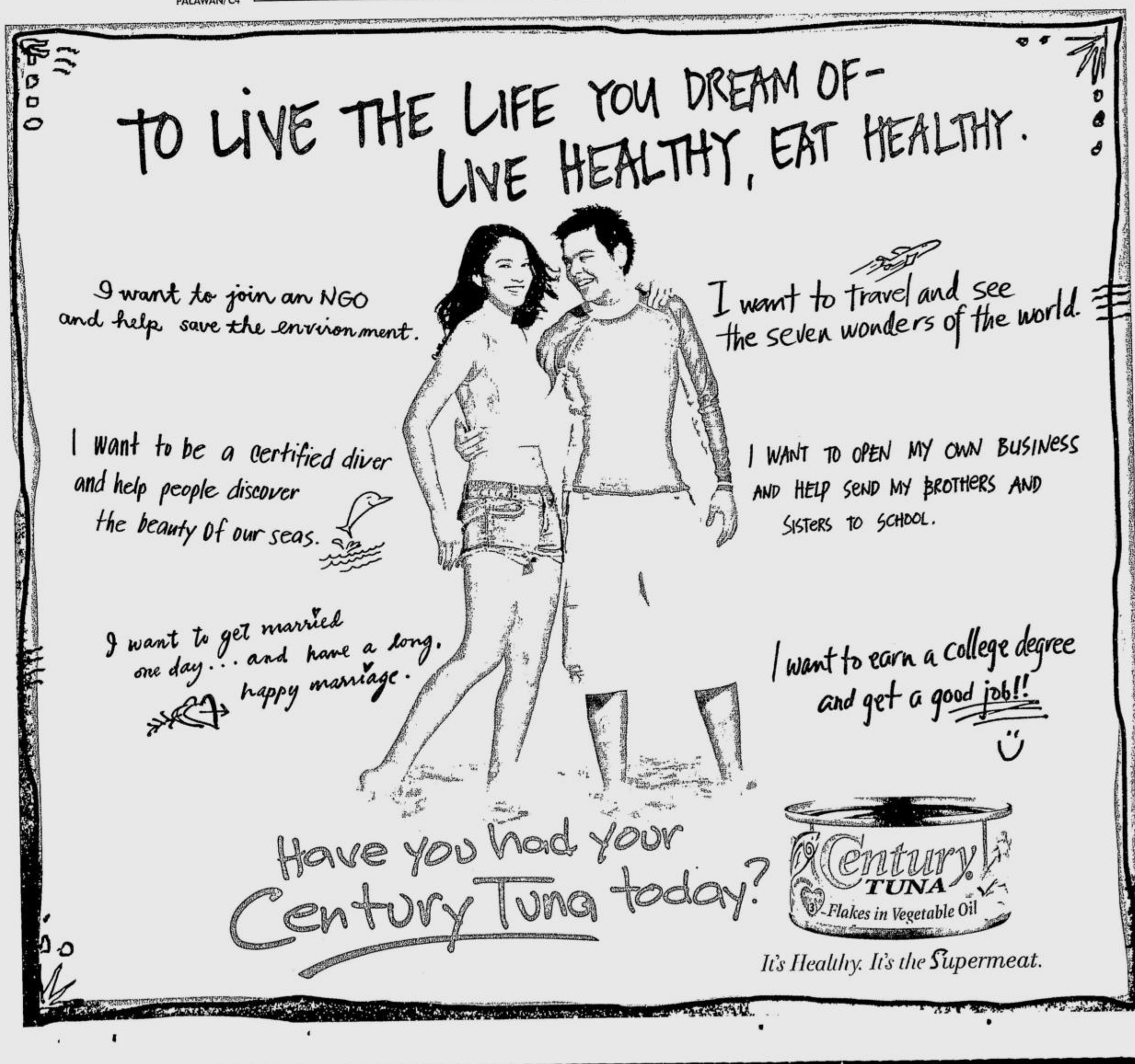
Brogniart went on to heap praises on Palawan, particularly El Nido resort, where he stayed, as the most beautiful location they've come across in seven years.

"It's incredible to see a place like this where you can be totally lost," he said. "It has everything—from lush forest to transparent waters full of fish and corals of various shapes and colors."

Show producer Thierry Graff was equally awed when and he his team "stumbled" on Palawan while scouring the globe for possible locations.

"It was really spectacular to see those

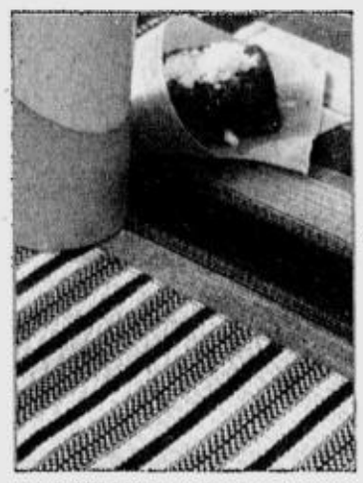
PALAWAN/ C4



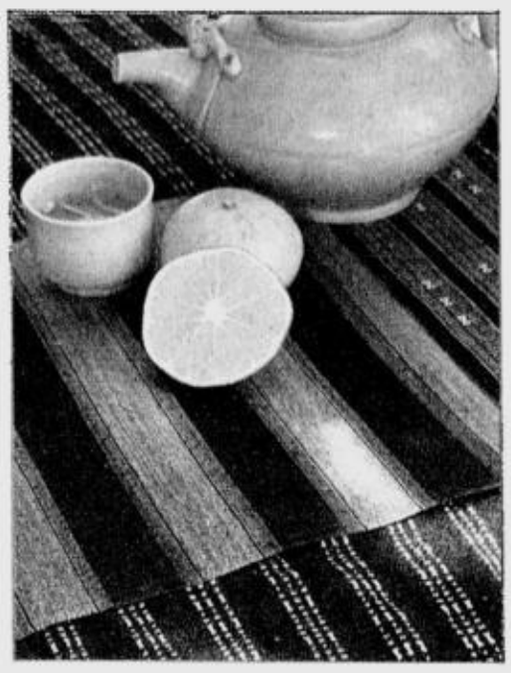
HALTER dress of Mangyan fabric and banana-fiber wrap

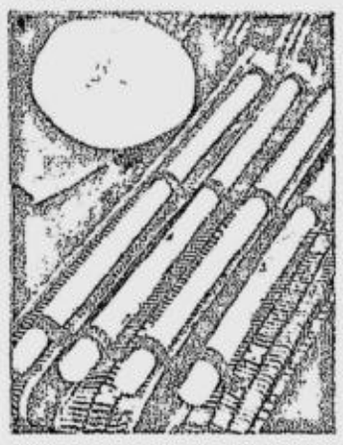
Passion and tradition in one weave

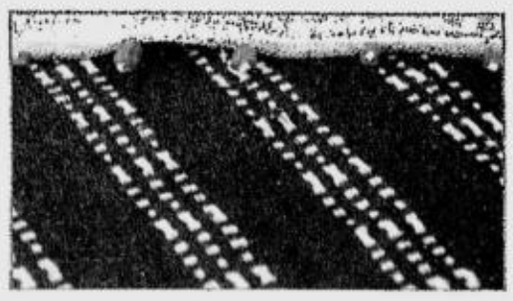
Dita Sandico Ong's new line of home furnishings uses fabric handmade by the Mangyan tribe



PLACEMATS and other table linens







Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BY THE TIME A MODEL turns on her heels at the end of the runway, the dress on her back has been knocked off and is on its way to mass production in a Third-World factory somewhere.

Okay, an overstatement perhaps. But that pretty much describes how quickly the world wants things, and just how quickly it can get them.

So why would a designer-entrepreneur, if she had to be in with the times, opt to go the long route and have her materials handwoven in a place so remote it takes practically 10 hours of bumpy drive to reach? Why would she devote her time producing an indigenous fabric that, seven years after she took on the cause, the local market still considers too "ethnic," ergo not commercially profitable? Surely an entrepreneur of lesser resolve would've given up by now.

But Dita Sandico Ong isn't *that* kind of entrepreneur.

Several years after she began working with the Mangyan tribe of Mindoro, creating couture dresses with their handwoven fabric, Ong is now producing home furnishings using the same material, a development that she says will help sustain the Mangyan community.

PILLOW cases

In 2000, Ong, with Earthlite Foundation, began working with the Mangyans, to help revive their fast-dwindling tradition of fabric weaving. Best known for her elegant banana-fiber shawls, Ong grew up watching the Mangyan weavers at work on visits to the island with her father, a cattle rancher.

The weavers of her childhood used to spin their own yarns, she recalls. Surplus threads from factories in the province later took the place of hand-spun threads.

The Mangyan fabric is akin to denim, with distinct linear and dotted patterns and a nubby finish.

A notch higher

For her latest project, Ong happily reports the weavers are now being supplied first-class, 100-percent linen threads.

"We're taking it a notch higher," she describes of the products that will be sold exclusively in Ayala Museum.

"Our main goal is to give the market awareness, that these are the things you can do with the material," Ong says. "I know that many people don't appreciate this kind of thing, that they feel it's too ethnic. If it's only tourists who would buy this collection, it's fine for now, you know. We hope the local market will follow suit. We're doing it so that some of the young ones may be inspired."

What drives Ong in this pursuit is largely sentimental, owing much to memories of her youth.

"I want to keep the [weaving] tradition alive. If we support their livelihood, maybe one day it can be an industry that would eventually draw tourists. [The town of] Bulalacao is so sleepy and remote, and it takes 10 hours to get there. But these could all change."

In January, through a grant from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, 30 Mangyan weavers aged 18-60 graduated from the Oriental Mindoro School of Living Traditions, according to Ong.

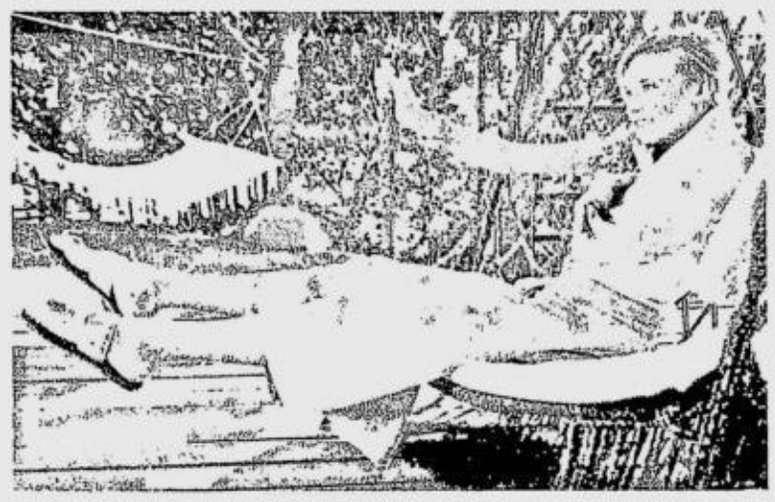
"Weaving was slowly dying; very few of the younger generation knew how to do it before this seminar," she says. The purpose was to train them again. "We didn't kill tradition. It's the same techniques, same patterns, same natural dyeing process."

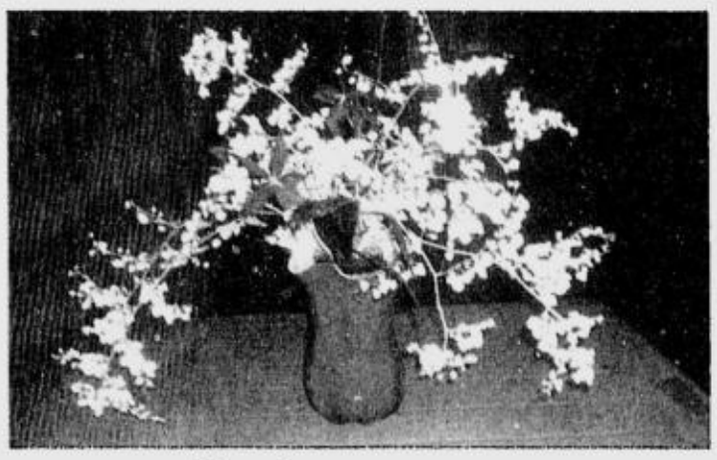
The only concession made to meet commercial demand is the supply of ready-made thread. "We cut halfway through the process by providing them with thread."

Ong adds, "The goal is long-term. This isn't something you can get instant success from. So you have to have a certain passion for it."

JERSEY separates and banana-fiber shawl

STYLIST ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS
MODEL LAURENCE GILLOT
JUNIOR DESIGNER JOANA ALAS
SHOT ON LOCATION IN CASITA ISABEL, ANILAO, BATANGAS





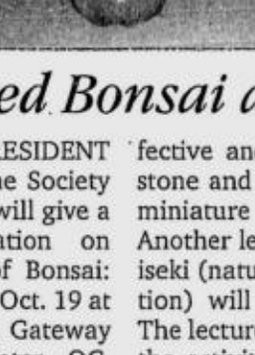
Allied Bonsai arts

FELY S. GUPIT, PRESIDENT of the Natural Stone Society of the Philippines, will give a lecture demonstration on "The Allied Arts of Bonsai: Saikei and Suiseki" Oct. 19 at the Activity Center, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, QC. One of the few practitioners of Saikei (landscape tray arrangement), she will demonstrate at 10 a.m.-12 nn the effective and dramatic use of stone and bonsai to create a miniature natural scenery. Another lecture demo on Suiseki (natural stone appreciation) will be held 3-5 p.m. The lecture demos are part of the activities during the 4th Philippine Bonsai Society Inc., National Bonsai Open Exhibition and Competition on Oct. 12-21.

Landscaping seminar

IKEBANA PROFESSOR SERAPION S. Metilla is conducting workshops for flower arrangement for All Soul's Day and landscaping.

Practical Guide to Landscaping will be held Oct. 20-21. It will cover identification of "hard-scape" and "soft-scape" materials; knowing the plants appropriate to the design and macroclimate of the area; ideas for designing, planning and estimating; design faults and hazards, Zen garden philosophy and care and maintenance.



All materials will be provided. For the hands-on miniature tray landscape, each participant can take home his/her work.

Flower Arrangement for all Occasions will be held Oct. 24-28. The course covers Classical styles of Ikebana with hands-on for Moribana and Shoka and discussion on sourcing of materials; Western styles with hands-on for all-around or one-sided, L-shape and techniques of lengthening the vase life of cut-flowers.

Advance registration is required at least three days before the workshops. All workshops will be held 1-6 p.m. every day at Mett's Plant Arts seminar room, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Call 9394593, 4352479, or 0917-8321352.

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

Marian art exhibit opens

THE IMPOSING OLD SPANISH CONVENT of the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral was turned into a museum a year ago. Valuable images, altars, vases, furnishings and other artifacts are kept there alongside important documents pertaining to the archdiocese on the upper floor.

Architect Melva Java has been commended for an intense and most faithful restoration. It has earned her a papal award, no less.

In the ground floor is a memorial chapel dedicated to the late Msgr. Virgilio Yap who, more than 10 years ago, started the museum. Beside it is a gallery where art exhibits are held. Currently ongoing is titled "Maghimaya Ka Maria," the first line of the prayer "Hail Mary" in Cebuano.

Cebu's top artists have given their versions of "Mother & Child" in this exposition. Everyone deserves heaps of congratulations: Sofronio de la Cerna, Tito Cuevas, Ber Hermoso, Bert "Boy" Kiamko, Celso Pepito and his wife Fe Madrid Pepito, Antonio Vidal and Jose Kimsoy Yap. Guest artist is Fr. Dominador Bersales, an Augustinian priest in Sorsogon.

MSGR. Carlito Pono with Amparito and Michel Lhuillier, and the painting by Celso Pepito which they chose for their new home

BERT "Boy" Kiamko and Louella Alix with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Impressive guest list

The opening program, held at the Msgr. Yap chapel, was graced by His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, archbishop of Cebu; and by Bishop Julito Cortes who is the parish priest of the Cathedral.

Jan Michael Banaynal sang the Magnificat and Raki Vega, the national anthem.

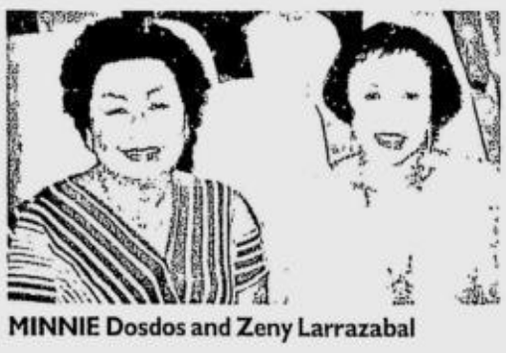
Welcome remarks were delivered by Msgr. Carlito Pono, the museum director. He acknowledged the large number of prominent persons present. The rationale was given by Fr. Brian Brigoli, assistant director and head curator. He was the best man for the job, having completed a course in Museology.

Celso Pepito gave a response on behalf of the artists who were all duly introduced by Louella Alix. She is one of the museum's curators, perhaps the most active, certainly the most visible.

Mary Rose Villacastin Manghuyop, the program emcee, then asked everyone to move to the foyer for the next ceremony.

This was the coronation of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as patroness of the Cebu Cathedral Museum. Involved were Cardinal Vidal, assisted by Zenaida Santo Domingo Larrazabal and Michel Lhuillier, two of the leading benefactors of the museum.

Michel and Amparito arrived early, took a peek at the exhibit and chose a work by Celso Pepito in pen-and-ink, or was it chiaroscuro? No matter, it will certainly have a place in the new house they are building atop a scenic hill in Maria Luisa Estate Park.



MINNIE Dosdos and Zeny Larrazabal

AMONG the guests: Terry Escano Manguerra, Tina Escano Unchuan, Chinggay de Veyra Utzurrum and Joe Recio

CELSO and Fe Pepito

BER Hermoso, Sofronio de la Cerna and Casa Gorordo's Jocelyn Gerra

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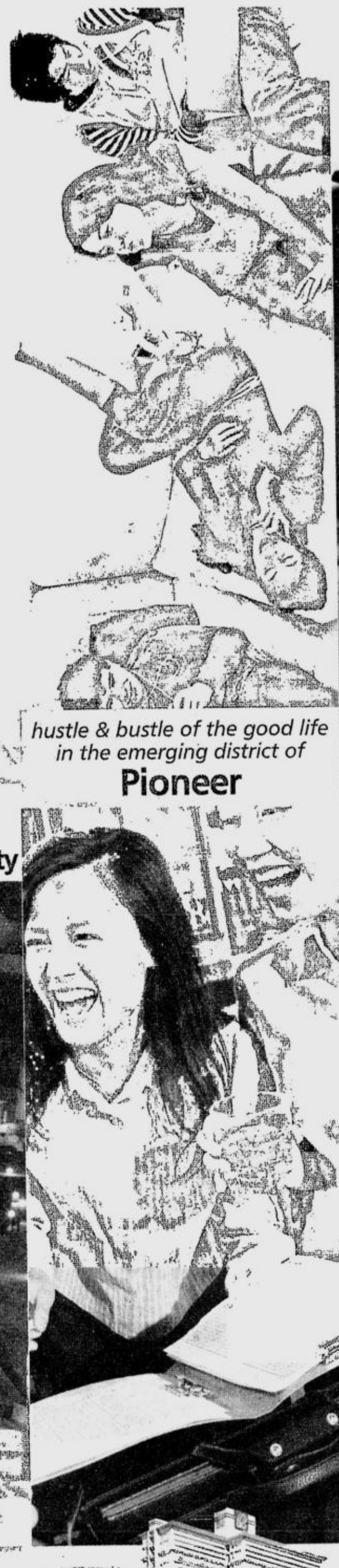
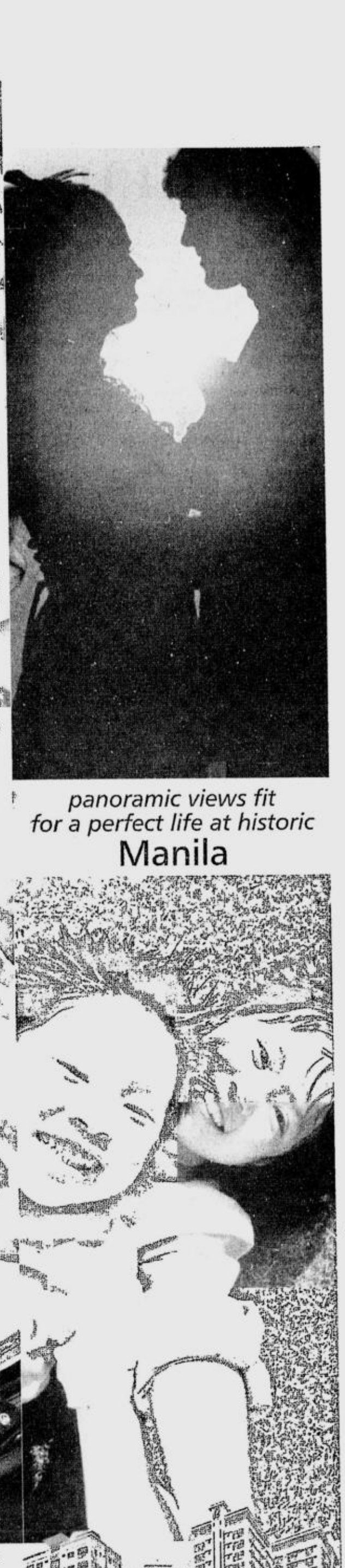


hustle & bustle of the good life
in the emerging district of
Pioneer



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DURANO, holding the country's marketing award, with Dos Palmas' Ivan Lim, Cebu Hilton's Manny Osmeña, Philippine Ambassador to Russia Ernesto Llamas, DOT Undersecretary Edu Jarque, SEAir's Mia Martinez, Marian Villegas and DOT's Verna Buensuceso

"WOW" couple Durano and wife Carmen

WORLD-FAMOUS Bayanihan Dancers; (below) Philippine pavilion in Moscow

Post-Cold War Russians warm up to the Philippines

AS THE 21-DAY VISA-FREE TRAVEL from Russia to the Philippines begins to take effect, expect more Russians to come to the country. Such news would have caused massive hysteria during the Cold War.

Rather than be paralyzed with fear, the country's major players in tourism, led by Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano, welcomed the development (which began Oct. 1) and even went as far as flying to Russia recently to join Leisure Moscow, dubbed as the biggest annual travel fair in the former Soviet Union.

To give the event its due importance, the Philippine team built one of the country's biggest and most colorful tourism pavilions to date.

Splashed with giant wall-mounted photos of Philippine icons such as white-sand beaches and the tarsier, the *kiping*-festooned booth sat proudly in the center of a huge exhibit hall in Moscow, alongside bigger but less imaginative efforts by Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Leisure Moscow coincided with Luxury Leisure, a smaller, more targeted event held in another hall and aimed at Russia's high-flying jet-setters. The Philippines had a smaller booth centered on wellness—complete with masseuses—to appeal to this group.

To add a dash of culture to the event, Durano brought with him members of the Bayanihan Dancers, who again succeeded in regaling and softening the hearts of even the most seemingly dour Muscovites.

TOURISM Secretary Joseph Ace Durano cuts the ceremonial ribbon to officially open Leisure Moscow. PHOTOS BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

Normandy landing

It was a back-to-back marketing blitz, as Durano and a smaller party flew later in the week to Deauville, a charming town in Normandy, France, to join another tourism Mecca dubbed as TopResa.

Wife Carmen and fellow Cebuano Eduardo Jarque Jr., undersecretary for tourism planning and promotions, accompanied Durano on both trips.

A similar, albeit smaller booth held its own among those of the competition in Deauville. This time, images of places the French hold dear such as Palawan and the Banaue rice terraces were plastered from one wall to another.

Palawan, particularly El Nido, has recently caught the attention of the French market after it became the setting of "Koh Lanta," France's answer to "Survivor." Hosted by Denis Brogniart (*see main story*), the top-rated reality TV show featured Palawan for an entire season earlier this year.

Durano deemed the twin efforts vital given the fact that France and Russia are currently two of the leading sources of inbound travelers from Europe.

Prized market

Although Europe makes up a mere 9 percent of the country's tourism market, it remains a prized source, especially in the case of Russians, who are known to stay longer and splurge as they hop from "paradise to paradise."

Not only are Philippine beaches more pristine and scenic than those in Phuket and Bali, the country's tour operators offer one thing others don't: multiple beach packages from one island to another that allow tourists a host of unique experiences and attractions.

The entry of new airlines such as SEAir and the dramatic increase in the number of world-class rooms (24,000 as of last count) have made island hopping possible.

MARILEN Sandejas-Yaptangco, Baron Travel

JOY Denoga, El Nido Resort

SONIA Lazo (right), Intas

PHOEBE and Richard Lim, Eskaya Beach Resort and Spa

As Durano aptly put it: The reasons to visit the Philippines are perhaps as numerous as the 7,107 islands that make up the entire archipelago. And to give tourists a semblance of city life, these packages usually include either Manila or Cebu City in the mix.

"By 2010, we're projecting an increase in tourist arrivals from three million to five million," Durano added. "Hopefully, Europe's share would have increased to 15 percent by then."

Before he assumed the post three years ago, tourism arrivals barely scraped the two-million mark. Durano attributed the 50-percent increase primarily to "selective" overseas promotions done on a relatively shoestring budget.

While the likes of Malaysia and Singapore spend untold sums on sleek ads via global media outlets, the Philippines has been more creative and discerning in appealing directly to markets that matter most through these travel fairs.

"It's all about presence," said Efren Belarmino, GM of Plantation Bay Resort and Spa. "Even if you have the best resort, tour operators tend to forget about you if you don't join these shows."

It was Cebu-based Plantation Bay's second year to join Leisure Moscow, and Belarmino couldn't be happier.

"This year is definitely much better in terms of attendance and inquiries generated," he said.

Russian guest officer

In fact, to recognize the Russian market's importance, Plantation Bay is the first and so far the only local resort to hire a Filipino- and English-speaking Russian guest services officer.

Ivan Spencer Lim, GM of the newly refurbished Dos Palmas Resort and Spa in Palawan, mirrored Belarmino's optimism.

"We've done Korea and China before," said Lim. "But this is our first time to promote in Russia. In spite of the distance and the Moscow traffic, the trip is worth it."

Oddly enough, no one seemed to know or had bothered to ask Lim about the kidnapping incident in Dos Palmas in 2001. All they cared about were the resort's facilities and marine attractions.

"We didn't change our name in an attempt to hide what happened," said Lim. "We've beefed up security measures, but what makes me bullish is the fact that we have a very good product to offer."

Indeed, the private sector has responded to DOT's efforts by investing close to $3 billion in hotel and resort development in various parts of the Philippines. If we're to achieve our dream of welcoming five million tourists by 2010, said Durano, the country needs to double its room and air capacities within the next two to three years.

In recent years, DOT has also intensified so-called familiarization tours by inviting selected members of the foreign media to spend all-expense paid holidays here. Such investments have resulted in glowing travel stories that directly appeal to potential tourists.

"Our initial strategy was to create a short-term boost by promoting to such markets as China and Korea," says Durano. "Now that tourism arrivals, together with our capacity to cater to them, is growing, we need to sustain business by going to the European markets."

French fave

As far as Philippine tourism is concerned, France currently occupies the top spot in Europe, while Russia ranks sixth.

Not a few French tourists, particularly divers, have long favored spending their holidays here. But the inflow of tourists from Europe, especially France, was reduced to a trickle five years ago after the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf kidnapped a number of tourists, including Frenchmen, in Malaysia.

Through the years, France has slowly lifted its travel ban to the Philippines. While it still discourages its citizens from venturing into certain areas in Mindanao, the French government has given them the green light to visit such destinations as Manila, Banaue, Cebu, Boracay, Bohol and Palawan.

But nothing excites Durano more these days than the likely deluge of Russian tourists to the country as a direct result of visa-free travel. Instead of flying to Moscow to get a visa, Russians from eastern cities like Vladivostok can now fly directly to Manila via Korea or China.

"The growth of the Russian market has been phenomenal," said Durano. "The number of Russian tourists has tripled from 4,000 three years ago to 12,000 as of today."

This newfound relationship between the two nations didn't escape the notice of Russian tourism officials.

Apart from delivering a short speech (the only tourism official from a foreign country to do so), the barong-clad Durano, together with several Russian bigwigs, cut the ribbon to mark the travel fair's official opening. He also received an award the next day for best in marketing efforts.

"Most Russians travel with their families and stay for an average of seven to 10 days," said Belarmino. "And they really spend! What more can you ask?"

Yes, as if in answer to Sting's question in his poignant hit song, the Russians love to travel with their children, too.

Alex Y. Vergara

But French tourists reclaim top spot as country's foremost European visitors

MOSCOW'S Crocus Expo International Exhibition Center

DFA Second Secretary Deric Atienza

Palawan takes French TV . . .

From page C1

rock formations and magnificent beaches all in one place," he said. "It's a dream location that's isolated yet accessible enough to stage challenges."

The irony wasn't lost on Graff when he admitted that Palawan, by far, is more scenic than Koh Lanta, a resort island in southern Thailand, from which the show got its name.

9 million viewers

But the biggest affirmation came from the French people themselves. Close to nine million viewers reportedly watched the Palawan series during its entire 11-week run, making it the highest-rating "Koh Lanta" adventure so far.

For sure, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of islands all over the tropics that are as beautiful and as isolated as Palawan. But the latter offers a rare mix of nature and modern-day amenities a crew of 70 people (excluding 16 French contestants) needs in order to effectively do their jobs.

The logistics involved in shooting a show like "Koh Lanta" are staggering, said Brogniart, a fitness buff who had a treadmill shipped all the way from Manila to El Nido. Apart from the show's French crew, Graff and company had to hire hundreds of locals to provide support.

Brogniart went on to assure French reporters that the Philippines is a safe place to visit except for certain islands like Jolo. Terrorism, he added, can happen anywhere, even in places like Paris and London.

"Not once did I feel unsafe in Palawan except one morning when a big dog followed me while I was jogging on the beach," Brogniart shared with a hearty chuckle. "I felt the same way wherever I went, whether it was in Boracay or in Manila."

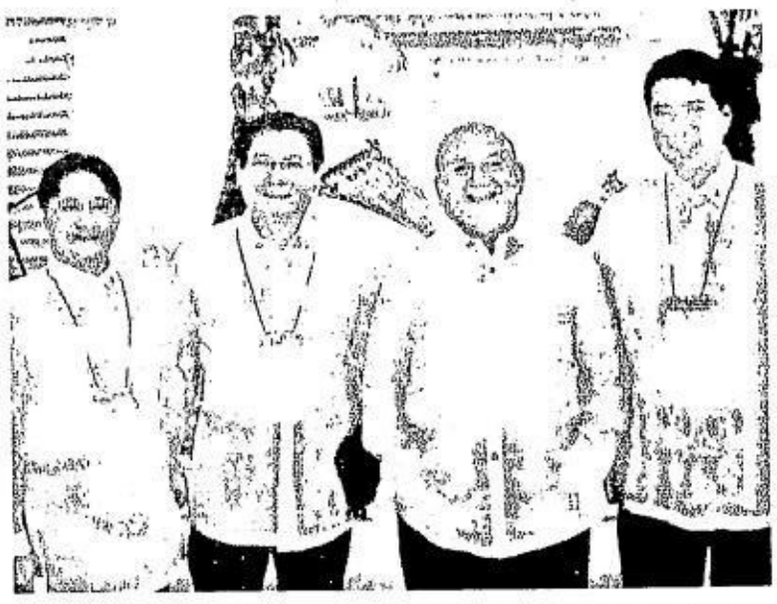
After endorsing the Philippines in a press conference organized by the Department of Tourism in the recently concluded TopResa travel fair in Deauville, France, the towering Brogniart later graced the Philippine pavilion, where he elicited stares of approval from a curious French public.

Indeed, DOT has another winning endorser in its efforts to further push "Brand Philippines."

PALAWAN'S transparent waters have captivated French viewers. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

RAMON Obusan Folkloric Group

Sunnier 'kombanwa' to Japanese tourists



MEN IN BARONG. Carlos Estepa, Jr. of Philippine Tourism Authority; PAL's Danilo Lim; Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque; and Team Japan's Benito Bengzon Jr

THE PHILIPPINE booth, one of the most admired among the fair's 948 booths

From page C6

single most powerful tourism and travel association in Japan.

The three-day affair brought together major tour operators from around the world and Japanese travel agents. The Philippine delegation consisted of key officials of top travel associations, representatives of the Philippine Airlines headed by Danilo Lim and officials of the Department of Tourism including Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano, Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque and "Team Japan" led by director Benito Bengzon Jr.

"The fair is not merely for travel trades but also a chance for tour operators to meet me and Filipino resort and hotel owners," Durano said.

For the tourism chief, this kind of "meeting" was a worthwhile investment.

"We are now in a 'virtuous' cycle. We already achieved a volume of tourist arrivals that's attracting investment which, in turn, expand our capacity (and) allows us to bring in more tourists," he said. "Through this event, we hit the travel trade and the consumers as well."

Target market

In the past, DOT programs for Japan were focused on men. This time, the department shifted its focus to Japanese women who enjoy shopping and love being pampered.

"When we learned that the market share is now leaning towards the ladies and also scuba divers—we call them submersibles—we made some adjustments to our programs to cater to these segments," said Durano.

Japanese women tend to seek relaxing, no-frills holidays. DOT believed these women were willing to spend their hard-earned money just to get the pampering they wanted.

"When we speak of [total] wellness, it's not just the spas. It includes dining, shopping, among other things," said Durano.

And how much does a Japanese woman spend on shopping? According to a survey, an average of $150-200 a day, including visits to a spa or beauty salon for skin care and pampering.

DOT said the trend now was really wellness, and Philippines offered a wide range of products and services.

"When it comes to shopping, they [Japanese women] actually look for brands. They don't care (about the cost) as long as it suits them," said Jarque.

Also being targeted by DOT are Japan's growing number of part-time workers, about 1.5 million mostly out-of-school youth.

Though they were not full-time workers they earned enough to indulge their passion or hobby like traveling.

Durano said it was important to know and understand the market well. "Even if the market is shrinking, just by looking closely, you'll see segments growing and, by focusing on these markets, we would be able to increase our ranking and get a bigger share of the market," he said.

Health and wellness

The department anchors its current Japanese campaign on "health and wellness." DOT Team Japan has adopted the logo "Wellness from the Inside Out" for its ongoing marketing campaign.

This thrust was reflected in the Philippine booth, one of 948 booths during the fair. A total of 772 exhibitors from 134 countries participated and 107,078 visitors were recorded.

TOURISM Secretary Ace Durano with Midori Matsushima, deputy minister of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan

HILOT becomes the major "come-on" at the fair.

TEAM Japan's Deo Lubrin and Leona Nepomuceno

Booth exhibitors from different countries pulled out all the stops to attract the Japanese market, each with different strategies to woo the tourists.

For instance, India showcased some of its traditional dances. It also featured services like henna tattoo and palm reading. Thailand offered a touch of its famous Thai massage. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, offered free tastes of its tea.

With DOT's focus on health and wellness, *hilot*, the traditional Filipino healing using coconut oil and natural essences, was showcased at the Philippine booth. Two traditional therapists demonstrated the *hilot* to Japanese visitors.

Tourism campaigns

DOT built its campaign around beach destinations such as Boracay, Palawan and Bohol. It chose Japanese model Anne Watanabe to do its promotional campaigns.

"Our strategy is to use visuals that are attractive to women travelers. A lot of Japanese women look up to Anne, so we chose her," said Durano.

Instead of placing its ads on BBC and CNN, the agency advertised in Japanese media like fashion magazines, travel and lifestyle shows catering to the young.

"There's no need for us to spend money on TV advertising (seen mainly by) business travelers," said Durano.

A major issue the department had to deal with was not the peace and order situation but the lack of clean restrooms especially in public places. It was noted at the Jata Congress that a major demand of Japanese travelers was a clean place to stay and clean restrooms.

But Durano said, as foreign tourists went directly to resort destinations like Palawan, Boracay, Cebu, Bohol where the facilities were of high standard, he expected them to be satisfied with the amenities.

"Our potential to grow as a destination is unlimited," Durano said. "In fact, Laoag and even Samal Island are now being developed to cater to the demands of these markets."

He expressed optimism that DOT could reach the target of five million Japanese tourist arrivals by 2010 especially with Philippine Airlines' five flights a week from Manila to Osaka, daily flights to Nagoya and Narita, four flights a week to Fukuoka, while three flights a week to Okinawa.

During the fair, the Philippine delegation also marked a significant event for Philippine tourism in Osaka, the handover for the 10th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention, which the Philippines will host in November 2009.

The event was attended by the WCEC International Secretariat officials and entrepreneurs from around the world.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph

FORMER President Fidel Ramos (center) with the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group, backstage at the Osaka Convention Center during the 9th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC)

The Philippines on the menu

IF YOU ARE GOING TO Japan whether for business or pleasure, do not forget to include the Philippine Travel Café in your itinerary.

Located in the business district of Iidabashi, Tokyo, it is a joint project of the Department of Tourism and Travel Café Co. Ltd.

"This is the first-ever Philippine food-themed restaurant in the world," said Kazuyuki Goto, executive vice president of Travel Café Co. Ltd.

KAZUYUKI Goto, executive vice president of Travel Café Co. Ltd.

The 350-sq-m restaurant that can seat 70, offers a taste of Filipino food amid modern Filipino interiors.

The interior design is based on traditional themes as conceptualized by multi-awarded Filipino architect Bobby Mañosa. The pieces of furniture are mostly made of local materials like coconut and *abaca*.

Interior designers and developers of the café include Budji Layug and Impy Pilapil.

The café has a travel concierge that provides information about trips to the Philippines, including heritage tours and packages. Well-made videos promoting the Philippines and featuring local celebrity Regine Velasquez play in the background.

The café offers dishes created by Via Mare owner-chef Glenda Barretto in close collaboration with the cafe's Japanese chefs. The menu includes the famous *adobo*, *lumpiang prito*, *pancit* and other Filipino favorites.

"Aside from the beautiful beaches, we want to promote the Philippines—its heritage, music, etc. through the Travel Café," said Goto. "We want to establish the Philippines as a travel hub," he added.

As part of the company's plan for expansion, it will open a new restaurant at SM Mall of Asia on Nov. 23. *BVB*

FILIPINO-STYLE pizza

HALO-HALO

SHRIMP and avocado with tartar dip

PHOTOS BY BELLE V. BONDOC

Sunnier 'Kombamwa' to Japanese tourists

Text and photos by Belle V. Bondoc

The DOT is targeting women and young travelers in its aggressive campaign in Japan

ECONOMIC PROGRESS HAS made the Japanese among the biggest spenders in the world.

A recent survey conducted by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) ranked Japan fifth after Germany, United States, United Kingdom and France among the world's top tourism spenders in 2006.

It is the biggest source of tourists to the Philippines in Asia and one of the world's biggest markets, according to the Department of Tourism.

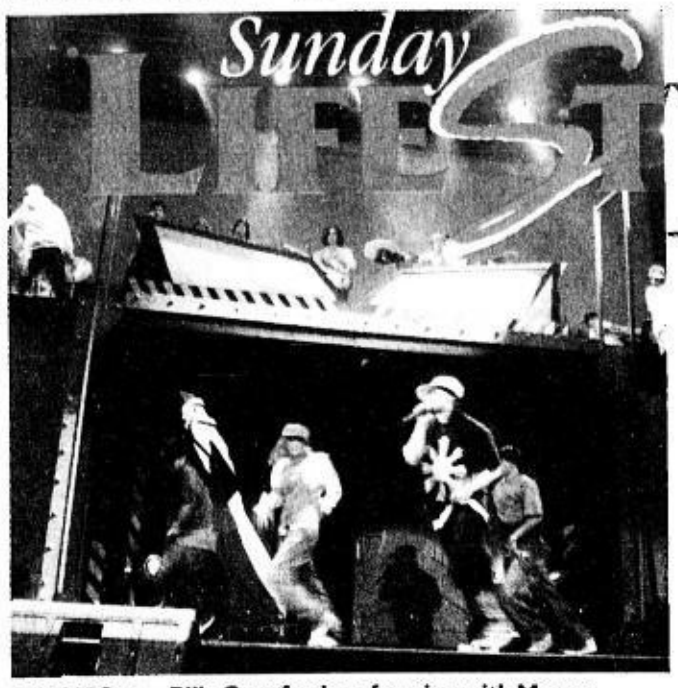
Not surprisingly, with its large number of outbound tourists with substantial disposable incomes, Japan has been targeted by tourism campaigns of various countries.

Fellow Asian countries like Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia are investing more resources in attracting the Japanese to visit them. The Philippines is not sitting idly by. It is doing everything to get a sizeable share of Japanese tourist arrivals.

The Philippines is ranked number 13 as a favored tourist destination among Japanese.

As part of the DOT's aggressive tourism campaign, it participated recently in the annual Japan Association of Travel Agents (Jata) World Tourism Congress at the Tokyo Big Sight. Jata is considered as the

SUNNIER/ C5



HIP-HOP star Billy Crawford performing with Maryss from Paris

SWATCH boys Billy Crawford and Christian Bautista

My fantastic cameo in the concert of the year

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

The hyper-energy, sheer determination and dedication of Billy Crawford and his team made "It's Time" one of the best live shows to hit Manila in a while

WHEN SENSATIONAL HIP-HOP ARTIST **Billy Crawford** staged his first grand concert in the Philippines, "It's Time," the multitalented young musician performed with a powerhouse cast of internationally acclaimed costars that brought the packed Araneta Coliseum crowd on its feet.

The entire concert was run by a world-class production crew that put up, from the initial struggles of coordination and logistics to the final implementation, a most visually impressive concert.

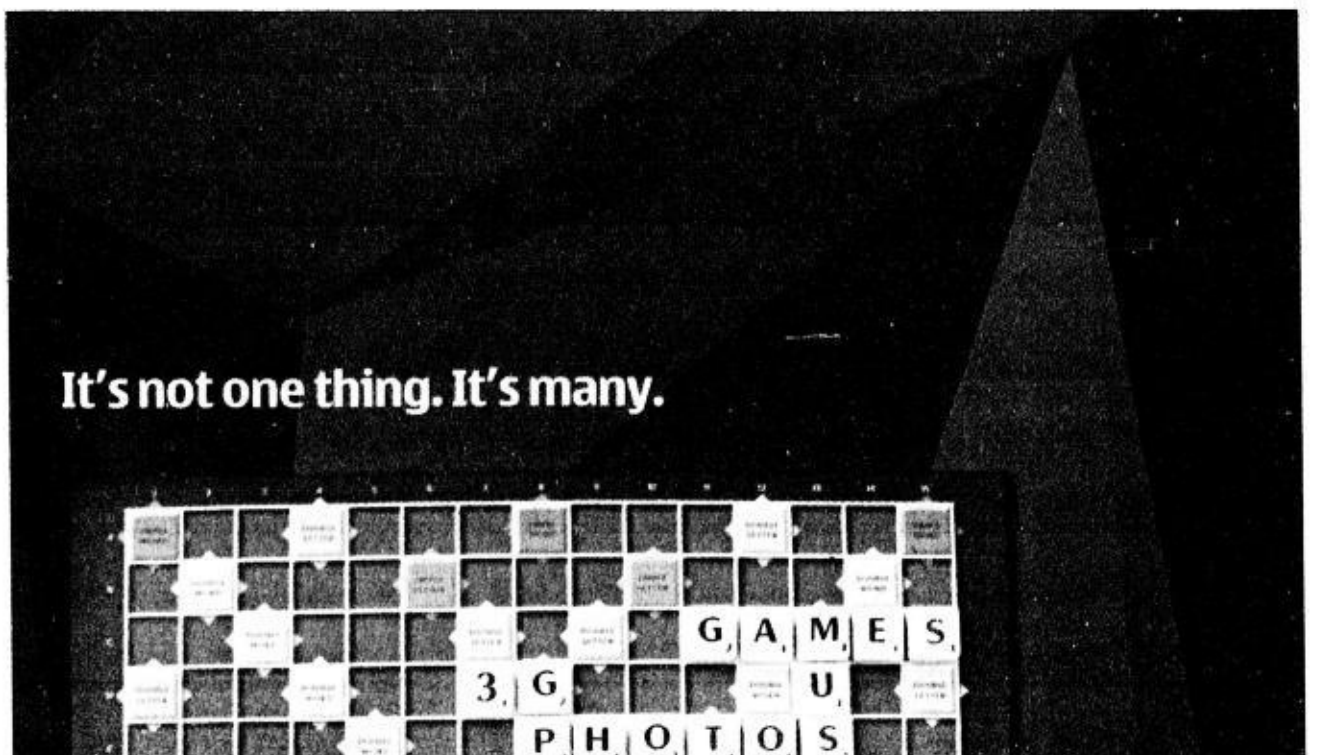
Toss in all the hyper energy, sheer determination and dedication of Billy and his team, and clearly "It's Time" was one of the best concerts to hit Manila in a while. Simply put, there was not one dull minute in the show.

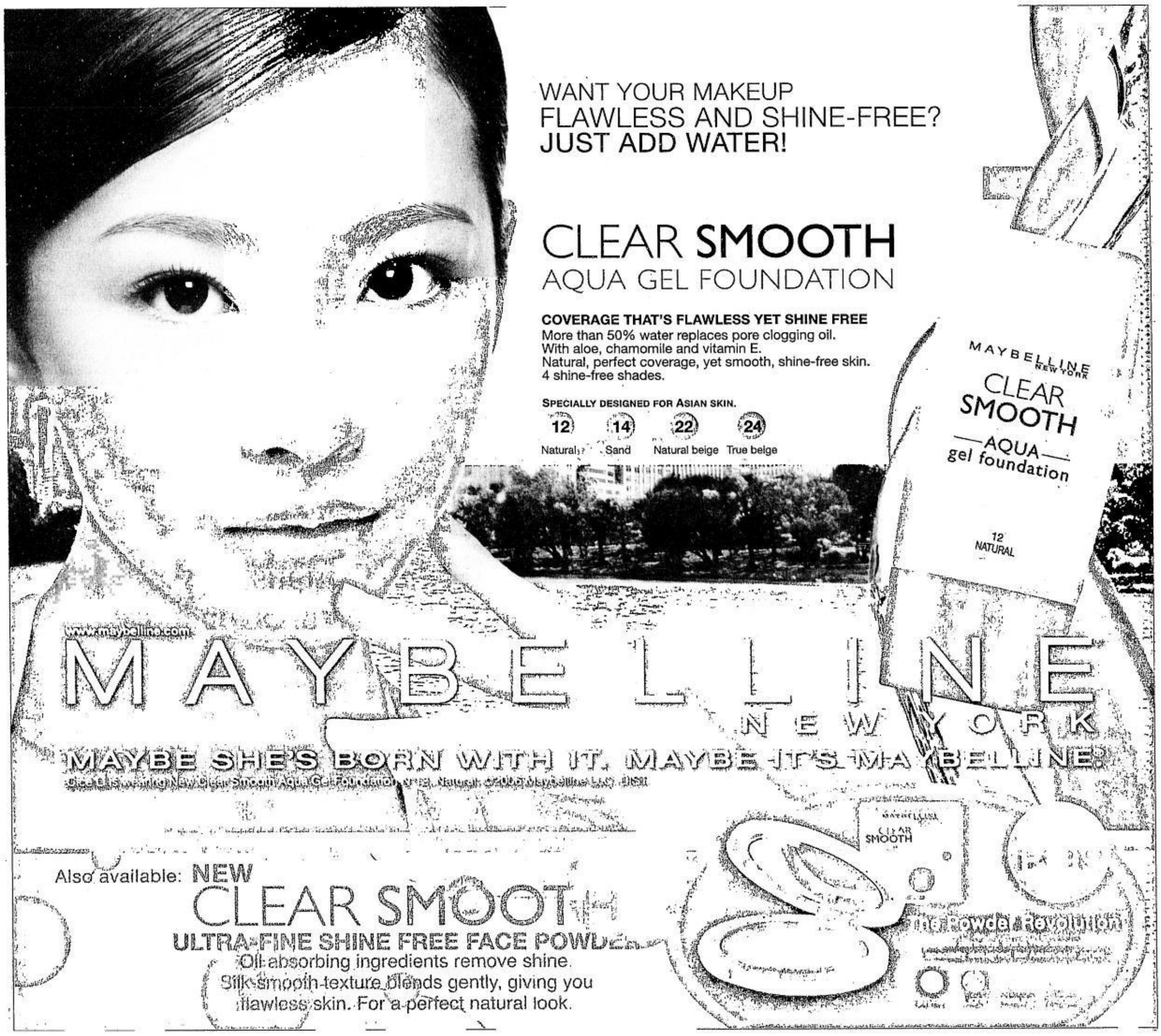
I learned Billy produced the show himself. In this way, he could retain creative control, bringing in the director he wanted, **Gabriel Hoareau**, whose credits include directing the opening and closing ceremonies of the Athens Olympics.

Thanks to Swatch, I had the opportunity to attend the closing ceremonies of the Athens Olympics three years ago. That was my first introduction to the work of this talented French director.

For Billy and "It's Time," Hoareau did not disappoint. For the grand opening number, he had Billy entering the stage upside-down, using a harness, that got a loud roar of amazement from the audience. From

MY FANTASTIC/ D4





ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Journal away!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Writing one's thoughts down is an excellent and safe method for teens to sort out their feelings and anxieties

TEENAGERS CAN be an angst-ridden bunch. If you are a parent living with a teenager, you know exactly what I am talking about.

However, before passing further judgment on today's teens, we need to stop and remember how it was when we were teenagers ourselves. By stepping back and revisiting our past, we may begin to understand ourselves better and appreciate our teeners more.

It's definitely much harder to be a teenager nowadays. There's just too much going on in their lives—schoolwork, family issues, best-friend dramas that rival today's telenovelas.

The stress can sometimes be overwhelming, and that's why parents and teachers need to provide these young men and women with a safe haven where they can creatively work out these issues.

I have found journaling to be an excellent and safe method for teens to sort out their feelings and anxieties. It is a method of self-expression that is both private and boundless, and a valuable tool for reconnecting with one's inner self.

One of the most helpful tools that my then 7-year-old daughter used in her grief work after losing her brother was a journal we bought together.

I had already been journaling at that time and thought it might be a good tool to use to draw out her feelings. Nine years later, she has stacks and stacks of journals, safely kept in a drawer that she considers sacred and one that I dare not open.

If you use a journal, let your children see you take time out to write. Whether it is a paper journal or an online journal such as a blog, allow your kids to see you write, and explain to them why you need to have the time and space to do so.

Share something that you wrote about a difficult time in your life so that they can see how you worked through your feelings and found a solution to the problem.

When you openly share the ways by which you deal with certain issues in your life, you role-model for them the steps on how they themselves can sort through the mix of happy, confusing, anxious and joyful moments they go through as teenagers.

In showing them that you take time out to take care of yourself by writing or drawing, you show them the value of taking time out to care for their inner lives as well.

Ground rules

Before encouraging your daughter or son (some boys like to write and draw more than they will ever care to admit) to journal, you must first make a clear pact that you won't ever read his or her writing unless he or she willingly shares them with you.

Privacy is essential to make this agreement work. In our home, when my daughter wishes to journal, she makes an announcement that she should not be disturbed because she is in journaling mode and we respect her wishes.

In the same manner, my children and husband know that when I blog, journal or write, unless it is a life-and-death issue, I am incommunicado.

Although many teens nowadays opt to blog or journal online, nothing still beats the safety and privacy of a paper journal. The joy of actually scribbling your thoughts in a memory book is a wonderful exercise in itself.

The idea may sound cheesy, but when your child decides to journal, go and pick out his or her first journal together. It is a positive memory that will be stored in your child's love bank and one that will be cherished for many years to come.

Here are some tips to encourage your teen, or even yourself, to release that inner wisdom and journal away!

- On the first page, write about why you have opted to journal. What is it you want to achieve? Will your journal be a venue to store your dreams, release your anger, record memories?
- Make a story out of your life or your current feelings. Happy, sad, moody, confused, hopeful? For 10 minutes, just write it all down. Do not edit your thoughts and just let everything flow. If you feel you cannot write down anything, write—"I do not know what to write..." You may be surprised at how quickly your thoughts will flow from there.
- Talk about specific events or people that have helped change you or your perspective of the world.
- Write a letter to a lost loved one or friend.
- Talk about a recent dream or nightmare that you had. When my son had bullying issues in his previous school, he would write about these in an online journal where he would name the ogres and the monsters after the boys who would taunt him.
- You can also paste photographs or draw pictures on your journal of significant people or events. This activity may sound juvenile and old-fashioned, but sometimes it is in the act of returning to the basics and in creating something that we uncover things about ourselves.

In journaling there are no hard and fast rules. You need not write every day. It can be as often as every other day or once a week. The important thing is to take some time out to develop the discipline of honoring your thoughts and scribbling them down in a safe place at your own pace.

SWELL Sweets' cupcakes

Yummy cupcakes

October is my favorite month of the year. Next week I turn 43—another year older, hopefully wiser.

While in a birthday party mood, I chanced upon these adorable and yummy cupcakes made by my good friend Gel Colet.

After a 10-year career in the broadcast industry, Gel has finally decided to give in to her passion by putting up Swell Sweets.

Gel specializes in making customized souvenirs for various occasions such as her very popular couture cookies, cakes, cupcakes and chocolate confections.

Kiddie and mommy birthday parties are always livened up by Gel's delicious and unique creations.

Call 0917-5367827 or visit http://gelcolet.multiply.com

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

These are turbulent times, thus we all need to learn how to manage our finances well

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Take charge of your money

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

MY FRIEND, WITH THREE children under the age of 5, was in a panic. "I want them to go to a good university, but tuition rise every year. I am wary of educational plans, but I don't think my savings account is enough. What do I do?"

Why do tuition constantly rise? There are many reasons, but foremost among them is inflation. Citibank Savings puts it this way: "Inflation is when you pay P250 for the P150 haircut you used to get for P80 when you had hair."

Because of inflation, we can only buy less of something now than we were able to do 10 or even five years ago with the same amount of money.

My dad said in 1950s, he could buy a hamburger for 50 centavos. Now a good-size burger costs at least P30.

When I was a kid in 1970s, a hardbound Nancy Drew book costs P20. Now the book, with thinner pages, costs almost P200.

A kilo of white sugar cost P13 a decade ago. Now it costs P29, more than double the old price.

With gasoline, the picture is worse. Premium gasoline prices increased by more than 300 percent in 10 years, and diesel by more than 400 percent.

Sure, international politics jacked up the price of oil, but inflation was also a factor. A peso is not what it used to be.

Better alternative

All of us know we need to save for the rainy days. We put our money in convenient savings accounts, and we can withdraw anytime.

However, savings accounts offer little interest (usually, at most, two percent), which may not be enough to beat inflation, such as last year's six percent rate. (This year, the peso became stronger, and inflation went down to two percent, but it is expected to rise again next year.)

Wise investors know that savings accounts are not enough.

Why do savings accounts offer such low interest? Many depositors withdraw constantly, sometimes even going below the required daily balance. The bank incurs a lot of administrative costs to keep the money of their clients moving around. Ergo, they can only offer very low interest rates.

To beat inflation, we need to think beyond the ordinary savings account. A better alternative is the time deposit, which gives a better interest rate—at this time at least four percent, depending on the amount of money we want to save and the length of time we will keep it in the bank (30, 60, 90 or even more days). The longer the money stays untouched in the bank, the better the interest rates will be.

Other ways

However, many people find time deposit rates still too low to meet their goals. There are other ways to make our money grow.

We can invest in stocks, corporate bonds, or government bonds like treasury bills. We can ask professional guidance regarding mutual funds. We can purchase real estate, jewelry, or for those who are savvy enough, newfangled instruments like derivatives.

Of course there are pros and cons for each type of investment. Some investments, such as stocks, are volatile. They may offer great returns, but also great risks. Short of a national crisis, treasury bills, which are backed up by the government, may generally be safer than stocks, but they may offer lesser returns for longer maturity periods.

Financial education

These are turbulent times, thus we all need to learn how to take charge of our money. Financial education is not just for professionals, but for everyone. Money matters should not be intimidating. With this in mind, I have helped Citibank Savings design an easy-to-understand program for all of us who want our money to work for us.

The program starts with budgeting. Let us take an honest look at our earnings and expenses. How much are we really saving? Are these savings enough for our goals?

Then it introduces concepts such as compound interest and inflation, and gives a range of choices to make money grow. What investment options are available? What are the advantages and disadvantages of stocks, bonds and so forth? What are the best strategies for our goals?

Finally, the program stresses financial planning. Let us list our short-term goals (home renovation, summer holiday). How about medium-term (children's college education, a new car) and long-term goals (retirement, sickness)?

We need to prioritize our goals, and set a realistic value of how much we need to achieve them. Are we making the right moves today? How can we monitor our progress?

I sat down with my friend and helped her budget, project income and expenses, and choose the best options for her goals. Armed with this knowledge, she's facing the future with more confidence. We, indeed, reap tomorrow what we sow today. May our harvest be a bountiful one.

Call 9959497 or e-mail aneth.lim@citi.com.

Unique nutrition program launched

CONGO GRILLE PROMOTES healthy nutrition by holding the feeding campaign "Congo-Hugs-A-Heart: Serving Sizzlings of Fun!" in Barangay T. De Leon, Valenzuela.

Some 400 children were treated to healthy food by the restaurant.

Done in tandem with GMA Kapuso Foundation's Feed-a-Child project, Congo Grille launched the corporate campaign as part of its social-responsibility program.

Led by its managing partner, Kenneth Sytin, the food chain provided a one-week supply of raw poultry and pork meat for the feeding plan prepared by the city government's health nutritionist.

The 120-day feeding program aimed to eradicate the weight and stunted growth problem among the poor children. It included the regular mapping of the child-recipients' weight to check their overall nutritional improvement by Jan. 9, 2008.

The launching activity saw Sytin and his 20 staff hosting a grand children's party.

"Congo Grille's initiative is deeply appreciated by the Valenzuela city government, which welcomes any private-sponsored program for our poor citizens. To date, this campaign is the biggest in the city in terms of attendance," city official Dorothy Evangelista said.

For December, Congro Grille will hold a gift-giving program, Carla Villanueva, marketing supervisor, said.

"Congo Grille's campaigns give a toast to life, showing how each of us can make life better for everyone," Sytin said.

Helping Congo Grille in the campaign were San Miguel Corp., Nestle Phils., Apo & Amos, Selecta and Torreno Printing Corp.

Campus press workshop features top journalists

TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE and foster camaraderie among campus journalists all over the country, the Varsitarian, the 79-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will hold Inkblots 2007: the 9th UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship, Oct. 22-24, at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex and the AMV-College of Accountancy Building.

Resource speakers include Alice Colet-Villadolid (former New York Times correspondent); Howie Severino (I-Witness, GMA 7); Ruel de Vera (associate editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine); Nestor Cuartero, (entertainment editor, Manila Bulletin and Tempo); Manix Abrera (cartoonist, Philippine Daily Inquirer); Quinito Henson (sports columnist, Philippine Star); Rodrigo "Jiggy" Manicad ("Reporter's Notebook," GMA 7); Ernie Sarmiento (chief photographer, Philippine Daily Inquirer); Marites Vitug (editor in chief, Newsbreak); and Jaileen Jimeno (executive producer; "Imbestigador," GMA 7) among others.

Registration fee is P1,200, to cover workshop kit, supplementary materials, lunch, snacks, and an Inkblots 2007 bag.

Registration is ongoing. Preregistration is required and will be on a first come-first served basis due to limited slots.

Visit the Varsitarian office at Rm. 105, Tan Yan Kee Student Center Bldg.. Call 4061611 loc. 8235, 8400928, 0906-4974838/0922, 0906-315 7261. E-mail inkblots_2007 @yahoo.com.ph or visit www.varsitarian.com.

Happy Hassle-free Birthdays at McDonald's!

There's a certain happiness found in birthdays celebrated at McDonald's. Kids laugh louder. Parents smile wider because they don't have to worry as everything - from invites, food, down to the party giveaways - is taken care of by McDonald's. Everybody's filled with such delight. Indeed, McDonald's knows how to throw a great party.

Mrs. Beth Arquiza can easily attest to this after her daughter, Rhian Chloe, celebrated her 1st birthday at McDonald's EDSA Central Mall.

"Masaya mag-celebrate sa McDonald's. Enjoy lahat ng mga bata. Even the parents participated in the games. Everybody had fun talaga."

As a working mom with a very busy schedule, she values the convenience in celebrating the birthday party at McDonald's. *"Wala ka na kasing iisipin." The food, the program, invitation, giveaways, party area—everything was set up already. All we had to do was go to the venue,"* recounts Mrs. Arquiza.

Affordable and Hassle-free party

McDonald's offers a wide range of pocket-friendly birthday packages. Each birthday package comes with full party amenities, a reserved party area, all new games, a dedicated party host and a McDonaldland character appearance. Party necessities like invitation cards, party hats, party balloons, name tags, loot bags, prizes for the games, and thank you cards are also included.

McDonald's even has a special gift for the celebrant and a party certificate to commemorate an unforgettable day.

For a happier birthday atmosphere, McDonald's introduced popular birthday themes like Winnie the Pooh, Incredibles, and Power Rangers. Currently, there's Ronald and the Gang featuring McDonald's best loved characters, and the delightful Disney Princesses. What's more, McDonald's will soon be offering its newest theme Disney Fairies – featuring Tinker Bell, Lily, Rani, Beck, Fira, Prilla and Bess.

The McDonald's birthday experience also goes beyond the typical in-store party. With the out-of-store party and the pick-up party options, you can celebrate an amazing McDonald's birthday at home, at school, or in the office.

"It's more convenient to celebrate at McDonald's rather than having it at home. Hindi ka na magpe-prepare and everything is organized. It can get more expensive when you set a party up by yourself. So if that's the case, sa McDonald's na lang. Wala pang hassle," said Mrs. Marie Anne Villanueva on her son AJ's 7th birthday at McDonald's Greenbelt Paseo.

Quality food and service

In addition to the no-fuss, value-for-money party packages, Dra. Vilma Herce Bala commends the quality and freshness of McDonald's food. She was assured that her guests will be satisfied knowing that such favorites like Chicken McDo, McSpaghetti, Cheeseburger, Sundae, and Fries were dutifully prepared for her son Ethan's 3rd birthday party at McDonald's Alabang Town Center.

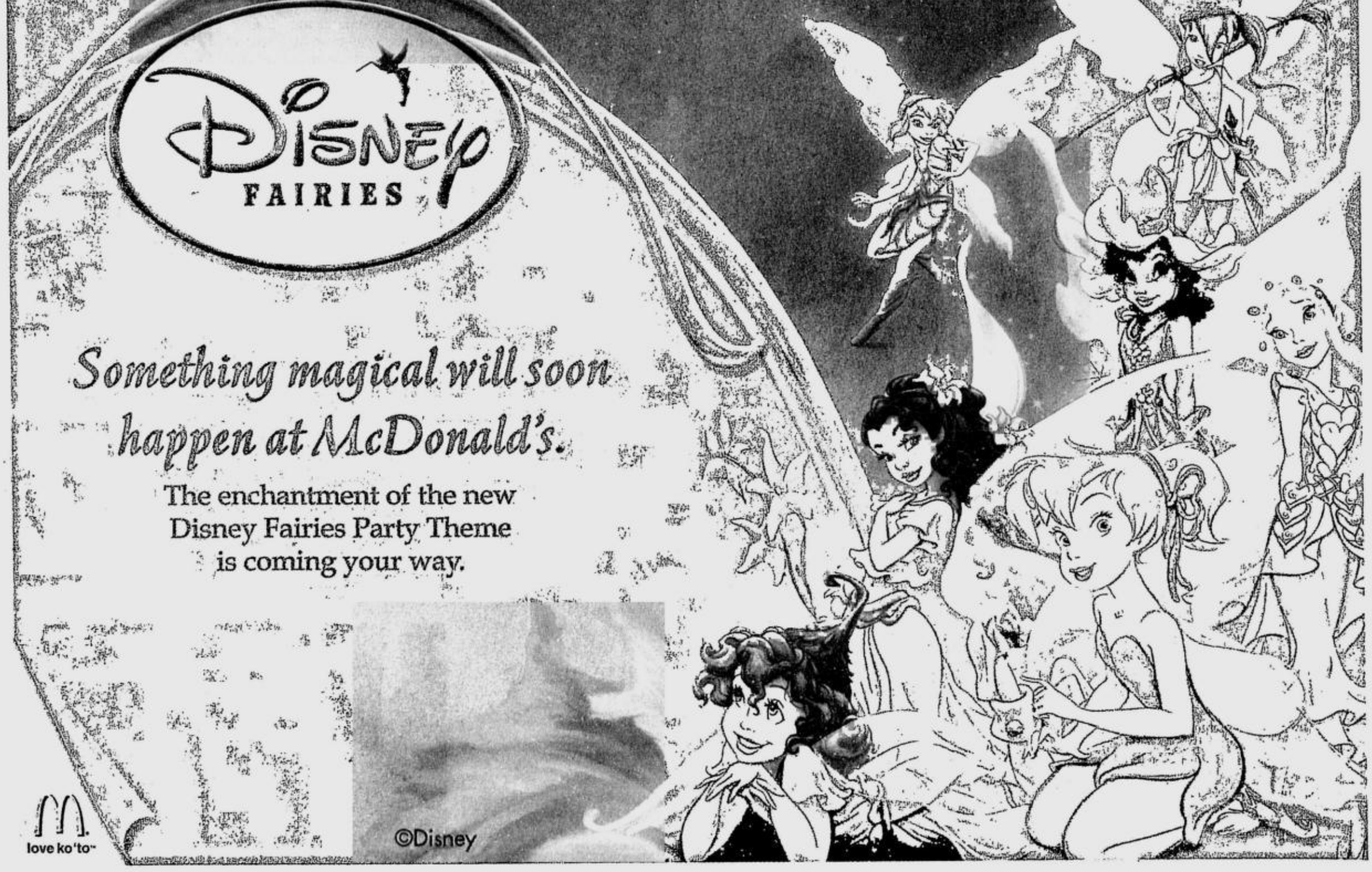
Dra. Vilma Herce Bala commends the quality and freshness of McDonald's food.

"The kids loved the food. The Chicken McDo was crispy and masarap yung Chicken McNuggets. The place was clean too and the staff took care of everything. It's really the perfect place to celebrate a child's birthday party," she said.

Share in the McDonald's party experience and discover the ease, convenience, and sheer happiness of celebrating birthdays under the Golden Arches. There are over 200 McDonald's stores nationwide, ready to accommodate your child's birthday party. For inquiries, visit any of these branches and reserve a party now.

Mommy Emily and her daughter Mara.

Kids having a great time at McDonald's.



Something magical will soon happen at McDonald's.

The enchantment of the new Disney Fairies Party Theme is coming your way.

©Disney

love ko 'to™

DENNIS Valdes, Doris Magsaysay-Ho, Socorro Ramos and Monique Villonco

TALENT manager Girlie Rodis and Rachel Alejandro

DIRECTOR Rustom Padilla and "Celebrity Duets" partner Rufa Mae Quinto

ROWELL Santiago, Gabriel Hoareau and Laurent Thouret

MUSICAL director Raul Mitra and wife Cacai

MTV boss Francis Lumen and Swatch boss Virgie Ramos

My fantastic . . .

From page D1

SEXY Karylle singing at the Billy Crawford concert

start to finish, the concert was truly time to have a great time.

Hip hop is not what it is without the dancing, and Billy had the finest choreographer made available for "It's Time." **Maryss**, a Parisian who does choreography for **Beyoncé**, **Justin Timberlake** and **Missy Elliot**, flew in to take charge of the young star's dance moves. Every song had the energetic Maneuvers group mimicking the moves of Billy, and the winners of his dance contest on GMA also got to be on stage.

Exciting part

One of the most exciting parts of the show for me was when Billy unexpectedly called me on stage. He was looking for one or two volunteers from the audience, but all the ladies seemed hesitant.

Clad in my wig and false eyelashes and seated in Row Two, thanks to Gift Gate taipan **Virgie Ramos**, I must have been so visible. So Billy, probably eager to keep the show rolling, asked me up. Well, I am certainly not going to play shy when the likes of Billy Crawford calls me on stage, am I?

It was a fantastic cameo, as I got a first-hand tour of the high-tech stage with its impressive hydraulics, and all while being serenaded by Billy. In the middle of the song, he whispered that the stage was going to move. But it was all so smooth, I almost didn't notice. International technical guru **Laurent Thouret** masterfully did the hydraulics of the stage.

HIP-HOP prince Billy Crawford performs upside down!

For those who missed "It's Time," that amazing concert will air on GMA next Sunday, so do catch it in the evening. The show will probably be after the finale of "Celebrity Duets," and I am crossing my fingers that I will still be on that show for the finale.

Assumption Velada

Also next Sunday is the annual Assumption Velada Celebration. This year, the host will be Assumption HS Batch '82, which is celebrating its silver jubilee.

I remember how exactly a year ago I was in the thick of my own Velada preparations, as our batch, Assumption HS Batch '81, was the homecoming batch. I wish Batch '82 all the best—may you find that after your quarter-century away from high school, all of you are reunited for our beloved Assumption.

As you rekindle many happy memories, may you also ignite the fires that help us focus more on our Assumption values of charity and giving back to society. And, oh, while you're at it, have a blast!

This year's Velada, "Celebrating Our Sainthood & Our Jubilee Together," will start with Holy Mass at Mother Rose Auditorium at 10 a.m., followed by lunch and the show at 3:30 p.m. Do ransack your *bauls* and take out your plaid skirts, then head out to Assumption next Sunday for some good ol' times down memory lane.

Spa anniversary

For those into relaxation and rejuvenation, or if you're not an Assumptionista, head instead to Urban Spa's fifth-anniversary event at the fifth level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall. All these events seem to be on the same day, Oct. 21, so it's gonna be a busy Sunday!

You can start out your malling at Urban Spa, enjoying the early afternoon with a fun fashion show of Bench Kids and Blissful Babes. A special photo exhibit of cool moms and kids by co-presenter Picture Company, which is also celebrating its fifth year, will also be unveiled.

In partnership with MasterCard and co-presented by Bankard, the wholesome and fun event will have wonderful promotions and giveaways from Chicco, Cycles and Nivea Baby. There will also be food stations sponsored by Cibo, Dome and Trattoria Gourmet.

Dinner musicale

When you put all your heart and mind into something, success is guaranteed—but even more so when you ask God to help out. That's what happened when Santuario de San Antonio Parish recently celebrated Francisfest 2007 with a dinner-musicale, "With a Song in My Heart," at the Mandarin Oriental Ballroom.

The show top-billed our country's top opera singers like Rachelle Gerodias, Camille Lopez Molina, Lemuel de la Cruz and Noel Azcona. These brilliant singers were accompanied by pianist Mary Ann Espina and the Manila String Ensemble.

I particularly enjoyed Rachelle and Camille's rendition of "Sa Kabukiran." It made me wonder what it might be like if I could sing with her on "Celebrity Duets." Unfortunately, with only the finale of the show left, that thought will have to go into my file of "What Ifs."

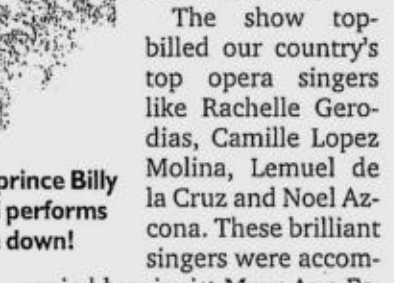
For now, I am just putting my heart and mind—and my prayers—on doing my best in "Celebrity Duets."

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

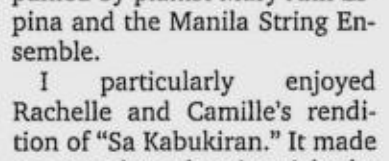
BIRTHDAY girl Susan Joven with Bruno Folster and Matteo Guidicelli

BILLY'S brother James Crawford and Richard Gomez

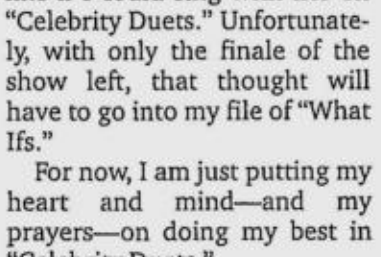
CONCERT fans Tessa Alindogan and Emily Petrocelli



FRANCISFEST head Fr. Jerome Angulo and Justa Tantoco



CLASSICAL concert director Danny Dolor, Soprano Rachelle Gerodias and pianist Mary Ann Espina



CECILE and Randy Limjoco

FRANCISFEST 2007 Parish Group and the opera singers and musicians

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WELCOME TO
HALLOWOOD
BE WITH US THIS HALLOWEEN, OCTOBER 31!
THE PODIUM
THE BLOCK SM City North Edsa

Winx Enchantiz Party
October 14, 4pm
A whimsical and magical party for all the kids in town!

Playtime with Baby Looney Tunes
October 21, 11am onwards
A whole day of fun with the Baby Looney Tunes.

Happy Halloween Hall Brigade
October 28 to 30, 3pm
Be spellbound by witches, wizards, superheroes and enchanting creatures.

Happy Hallowood @ The Podium
October 31, 10am onwards
A not-so-spooky event for young ghosties, goblins, wizards, heroes and fairy princesses! Enjoy exciting games and win fabulous prizes with our **Hallowood Costume Contest**.

Happy Hallowood Trick or Treating
October 31, 10am to 2pm / 5pm to 7pm
Kids! Come to the mall for some Halloween tricks and Hallowood treats!

Halloween Hall Brigade
October 21 and 27, 3pm
Prepare to be haunted, startled, and horror-struck as the famous movie monsters walk around the mall to greet you a "Happy Halloooooween!"

A Hollywood Scare Fest
October 27, 3pm
Dress up like your favorite Hollywood monster, have your scariest photo taken, paint pumpkins, enjoy Halloweentertainment shows and monsterrrific prizes!

Scooby Doo's Spooktacular Halloween
October 28 - November 3
The town's favorite dog comes for the Halloween celebration! Put on your Scooby Doo masks, chase ghosts with Scooby and find mystery mummies!

Trick or Treat
October 31, 10am to 2 pm / 5pm to 7pm
Knock at The Block for the trickiest treats this Halloween!

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

HONG DEBUT

Dominique "Nikki" Hong will celebrate her 18th birthday on Oct. 20 with a grand debut party at the Luzon Ballroom of Sofitel-Philippine Plaza Hotel, Cultural Center Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Nikki will wear a multi-tiered taffeta ball gown designed by **Kate Torralba**.

The gown comes in shades of burgundy and plum with matching crystal hairpiece and fishnet gloves and a trademark matching bag.

The debutante, accounting sophomore at Miriam College, is the daughter of **Nicanor "Buboy" Hong**, manager of JSN Laboratories, and **Jocelyn Hong**.

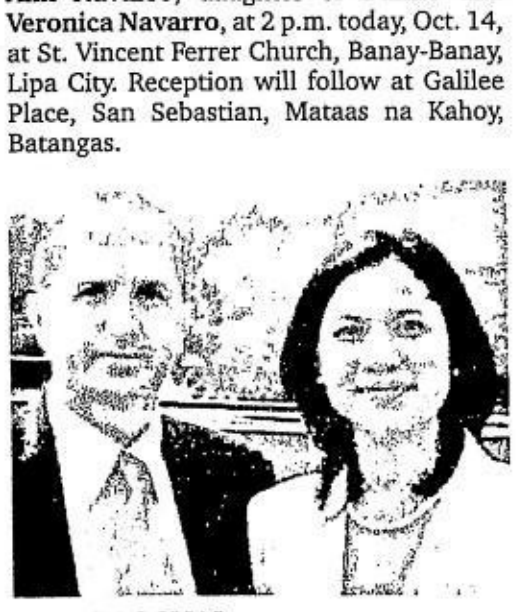
ALEJO-VALDEZ

Erwin Alejo, son of **Ernesto** and **Esther Alejo**, will tie the knot with **Katherine Valdez**, daughter of **Amor** and **Sucile Valdez**, on Oct. 20 at the Church of St. Patrick, Kagarah, New South Wales, Australia. Reception will be held at the Novotel Accor Hotel CNR in New South Wales.

Eric Pineda designed the bridal gown using *cadanete* embroidered ivory tulle, traced with ecru faux pearls and pailletes.

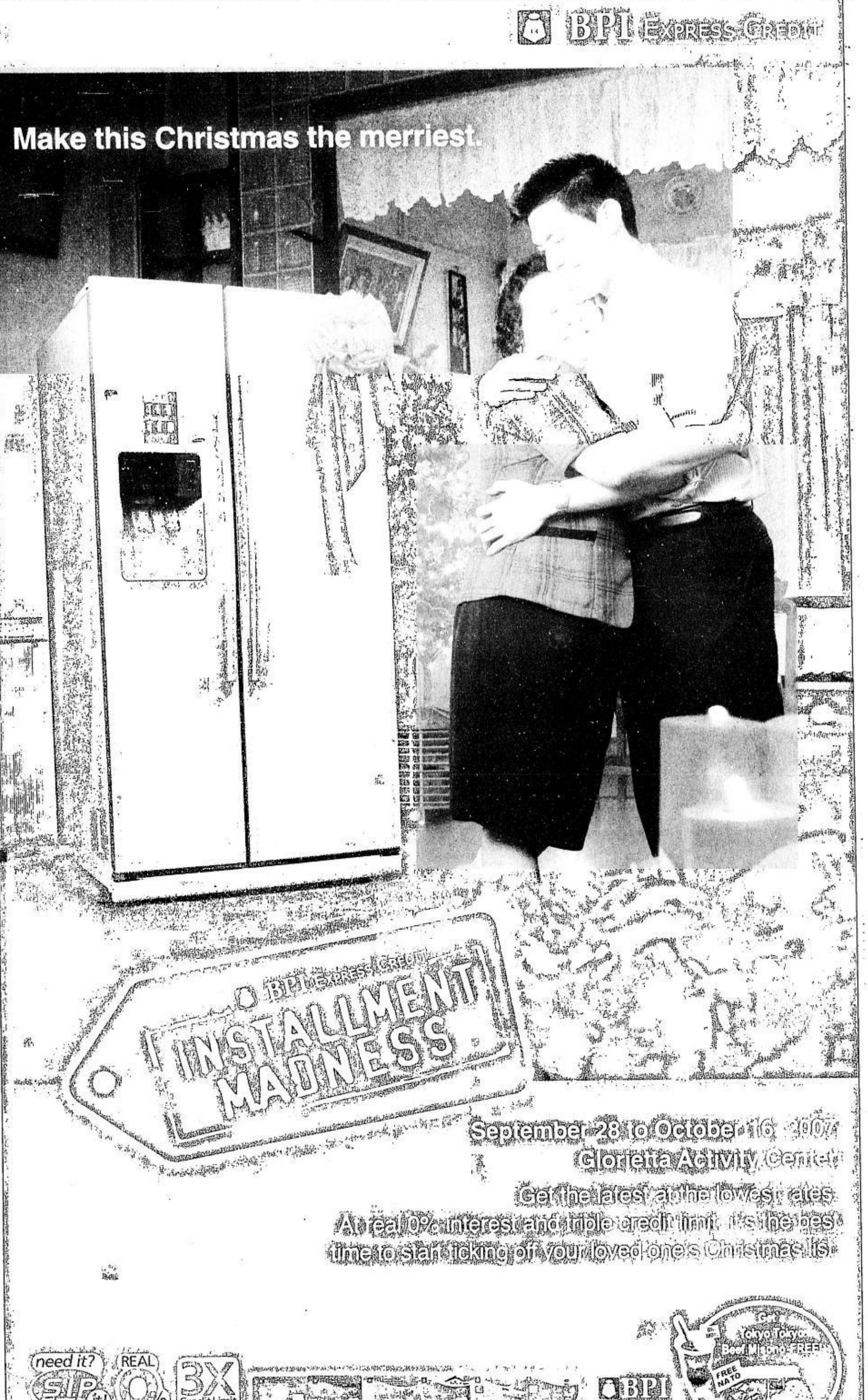
PEREZ-NAVARRO

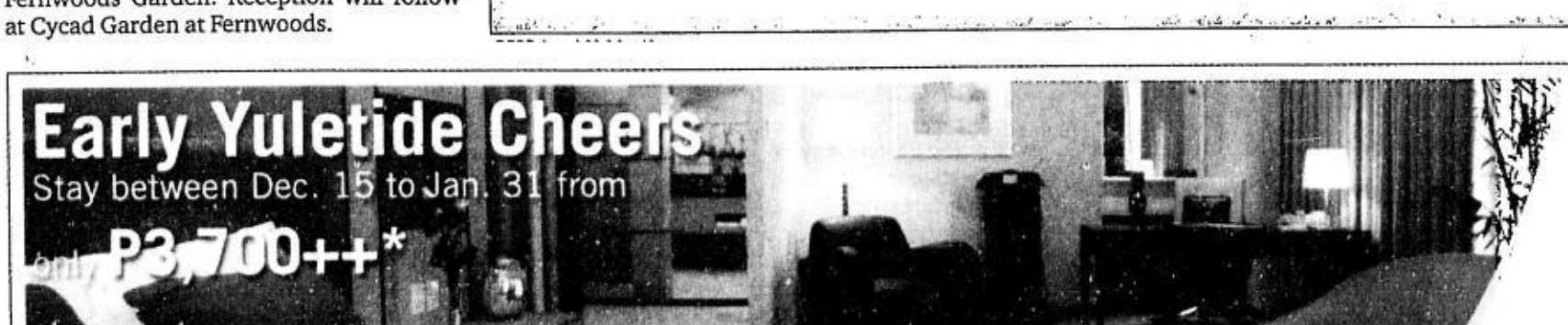
Samuel Perez, son of **Bartolome** and **Buenaventuranza Perez**, will wed **Mary Ann Navarro**, daughter of **Danilo** and **Veronica Navarro**, at 2 p.m. today, Oct. 14, at St. Vincent Ferrer Church, Banay-Banay, Lipa City. Reception will follow at Galilee Place, San Sebastian, Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas.



PISA-PASCUAL

Manuel Pisa and **Christine Marie Pascual** will wed on Oct. 20, 5:30 p.m. at the Fernwoods Garden. Reception will follow at Cycad Garden at Fernwoods.





NEWLYWEDS Jondi and Jocel Buensalido (nèe Soria)

BUENSALIDO-SORIA NUPTIALS

A red-carpet wedding for 'movie stars'

MOVIE posters with the bride and groom's faces on them

THE BALLROOM, designed by Leo Almeria, looks Golden Globe-ready.

THE COUPLE with the Sorias. Jocel's brother Juan III, nephew JM, father Juan II, mother Araceli, sister Joan, sister-in-law Marose and brother Joel

THE BUENSALIDOS welcome a new daughter into the family. Jondi's brother Jason, father Adrian, mother Joy and sister Monique

THE "CAST" of "The Godfather" I-III as godparents

JOEY Espino, the groom's parents, Flower Farm guru Ging de los Reyes and interior designer Leo Almeria

THOUGH CLASSMATES FOR FOUR years in medical school, doctors Joseph Adrian L. "Jondi" Buensalido and Jocel G. Soria fell in love only on their last year.

But the romance led to an exchange of vows recently at the St. James the Great Parish Church in Ayala, Alabang.

The groom is the son of dermatologist Adrian H. Buensalido and public-relations executive Joy Buensalido, both of Metro Manila.

The bride is the daughter of two Zamboanga City doctors, Juan U. Soria Jr., a thoracic and vascular surgeon, and Araceli G. Soria, a cardiologist.

Guests from Metro Manila and Zamboanga City gathered at the magnificent church of St. James to witness the solemn ceremony.

The bridal entourage looked marvelous in matte-gold gowns with Zamboanga-inspired touches. The gowns were designed by the bride and executed by one of Manila's best, Nolie Hans, who also made the groom's all-white suit.

Everyone was enthralled as the bride walked down the aisle in a serpentine-cut gown she also designed and made by Zamboanga's Angking Francisco.

The couple's friend and teacher, Fr. Danny Tiong of the De La Salle Health Sciences Campus, solemnized the wedding, giving it a personal touch.

The wedding reception at the Ayala Alabang Country Club was a big surprise to everyone. Guests walked on a red carpet that led to the newlyweds' logo wall.

Mobbed by paparazzi

Buensalido and Soria posed like movie stars before a throng of paparazzi and were interviewed by an "entertainment correspondent" in front of a video camera.

The cocktail area was filled with movie posters with the couple's faces substituted for the actual actors.

Guests found out that they were, for that one evening, "cast members" of a movie or television series, their tables having small movie posters to identify them instead of the usual numbers.

Wine flowed and good food was served.

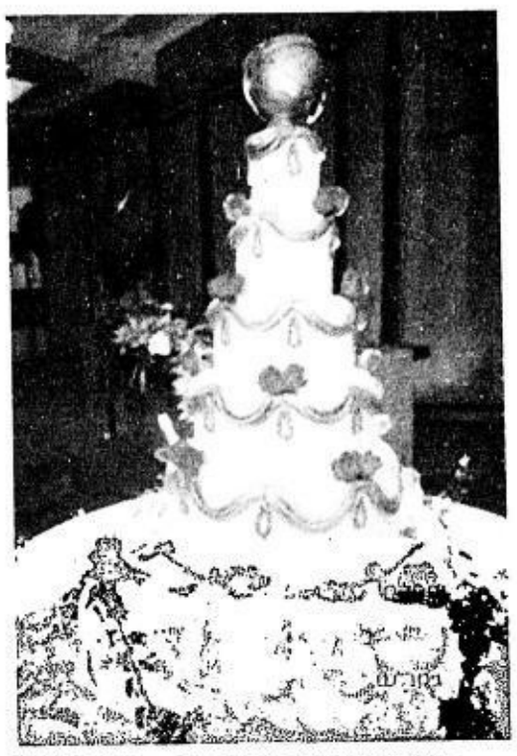
The show started with the two hosts, the groom's sister Monique and the bride's cousin Gama Gonzales, welcoming everyone to the "Golden Globe Awards Night featuring the love story of Jondi and Jocel."

"Awards" and speeches were given. "The Godfather" the movie got the Lifetime Achievement award. It was received by one of the godparents, Dr. Jose Carlos Jugo.

Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress awards went to the best man and maid of honor, respectively.

There was a tie for Best Director honors. The couple's parents shared the trophy.

Of course, Best Actor and Best Actress awards went to the newlyweds, who thanked everyone who helped and everyone who came to make the wedding and the "show" the big success it was.



TRISHA Atendido-Ruste of Satin Cakes made the cake look like a Golden Globe trophy.

Their first dance was to the tune of "Come What May" from the movie "Moulin Rouge." Then everyone joined them on the dance floor.

Many guests had their pictures taken in front of the wonderful set and backdrop, adorned with Golden Globes and flowers. Clutching Golden Globe trophies, they smiled for the cameras.

Indeed, it was a night to remember as the couple made their guests feel like movie stars—even if just for one evening.

THE WEDDING entourage

EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT

Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila has an early Christmas gift for you. Make your reservations on or before Oct. 31 and avail of a special rate starting at P3,700++ for stays between Dec. 15 and Jan. 31. The package comes with buffet breakfast for two adults at the Seven Corners Restaurant. You can upgrade your accommodation starting from only P4,700++ on the same booking conditions. The offer does not apply on the evening of Dec. 31.

CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate momentous occasions, unforgettable events and new adventures at the Bellevue Hotel. From small birthday parties and get-togethers to a dream wedding, Bellevue makes sure every little detail is taken care of. Diverse selections and rates are offered according to the hosts' needs and specifications. The hotel can accommodate up to 800 people. Call 7718181.

FR. ERNO Diaz (second from left) with Fr. Gil Evangelista, Virginia Devide (lector), lawyer Ferdinand Suba (lector), Msgr. Oscar Aquino, Ronald Magnaye, Dr. Audrie de Jesus and lawyer Ruby Rey-Burke

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

La Naval grand procession today; Manila patroness to visit Vatican

THE ANNUAL GRAND PROCESSION OF our lady of the Rosary, La Naval de Manila, whose feast day is observed every second Sunday of October, takes place today at 4 p.m.

The procession will start at the Santo Domingo Church in QC, which houses the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Our Lady's centuries-old icon, the most lavish and most celebrated Marian image in the country, will be preceded in the procession by icons of St. Joseph and the pantheon of Dominican saints, all of them exquisitely made up.

This year's feast of La Naval is particularly much anticipated since the Dominican family and La Naval devotees are marking the centennial of the canonical coronation of the image.

In October 1907, La Naval was canonically crowned by Msgr. Ambrose Agius, OSB as ordered by Pope Pius X (now St. Pius X), the first Marian icon in the Philippines and in Asia to be so honored.

Last Oct. 4, the canonical coronation was reenacted in a High Mass concelebrated by 15 bishops, representatives of the Apostolic Nunciature and Dominican priests. Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, assisted by Santo Domingo prior Fr. Bienvenido Trinilla, OP, crowned Our Lady.

Last Oct. 7, the massive coffee-table book, "The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of a People's Faith," (tel. 7126271-72) written by top scholars and experts, was launched .

Today, at 8 a.m., Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, OP, will be chief celebrant in a High Mass at Santo Domingo Church in honor of La Naval.

THE MAJESTIC image of Nuestra Señora del Santisimo Rosario, La Naval de Manila, emerges from her shrine in Santo Domingo Church, QC for the annual grand procession.

De Guia to get papal blessing

For the first time in its 436th history, the pilgrim image of Nuestra Señora de Guia will be brought to the Vatican on Oct. 20 to be blessed by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Pope granted the request for the blessing when President Macapagal-Arroyo went to Rome for the canonization of Blessed Marie Eugenie, founder of the Assumption Sisters.

Through Tony Adriano, pastoral council president of Ermita Church, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, said Fr. Sanny de Claro, parish priest and rector of the Archdiocese Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia, could bring the image.

The image will be accompanied by Cristina Ponce Enrile and Nena Valdes, Malacañang undersecretary for religious affairs. They will have a private audience with the Pope.

From Rome, where a Mass will be celebrated for Filipino workers, the image will be brought to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris.

Also to be visited by the patroness of Manila are Barcelona and Hong Kong.

Fiesta Mass

Some 30 priests concelebrated with Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes the fiesta Mass for San Lorenzo Ruiz at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

Bishop Reyes' homily stressed the important role of lay people. He noted that God did not choose a priest or a nun as first Filipino saint but a lay person, married with children.

The bishop said the laity was called to holiness just like priests and nuns and their holiness should be seen not only in the church but in their "world."

Dr. Grace Pasigan, chair of our advisory council and who was in New York, led the "Prayer to San Lorenzo Ruiz." Filipino-Americans joined the gala dinner for Bishop Reyes hosted by the Filipino Apostolate Center in Jing Fong, a Chinese restaurant.

Some 300 guests including Ambassador and Ms Hilario Davide Jr. attended.

Msgr. Juanito Figura told Fr. Erno Diaz, rector of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz, that in 1990 the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines declared San Lorenzo Ruiz patron saint of overseas Filipino workers.

Fr. Erno's book, "On the Road with San Lorenzo Ruiz" (available at National Bookstore), says the devotion to the saint began in New York with the 1984 Mass celebrated by the late Jaime Cardinal Sin at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Jose Mari Chan was *hermano mayor*.

Fr. Erno will leave with New York devotees on Oct. 15 for Rome for the 20th anniversary of the saint's canonization.

Seminars

After a massive heart attack in 1989, Antonio Aguilar Medina, former vice governor of Masbate, joined the Legion of Mary in the Resurrection of the Lord Parish in BF homes Phase II and the Knights of Columbus 7147 Pagkabuhay Council.

As president of the Faithful Heroes Shining Times, he and his friends organized the first Orgullo kan Bikol Awards.

Now he is presenting the first Living with the Saints seminars at the Resurrection of the Lord Parish 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Oct. 26; and the Manila Manor Hotel 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 27.

Help with the seminars are the Legion of Mary, Knights of Columbus, Society of St. Expeditus and Rosary for Life.

The seminars aim to find ways to stop the practice of Halloween which, to Tony Medina, is "a pagan culture of death practices."

At 9:30 a.m., Oct. 26, Fr. Jun Lingad will talk on St. John Bosco while Fr. Edwin Seblante will speak on the Blessed Mother; St. Isidore, the worker; and San Juan Diego.

Filipino visionary Nora Ilagan will dwell on the works of St. Alphonsus Ligouri; Sis. Mila Berbano, Venerable Edel Quinn; Bro. Ted Dominguez, Fr. Michael McGivney; and Mother Encarnacion Villamor Granado, St. Francis and St. Clare.

Bishop Joel Baylon will talk on St. Anthony de Padua and the Communion of Saints. He will say Mass at 6:30 p.m.

On Oct. 27, Fr. Nestor Empelido, SDB, will talk on Blessed Mother and St. John Bosco; Fr. Ramon Merino, San Lorenzo Ruiz; Fr. Vic Robles, St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy; Fr. Carmelo Arda, St. Anthony de Padua; Bro. Nestor Limqueco, St. Dominic, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Catherine of Siena; Fr. Romy Castro, SVD, St. Arnold Janssen, St. Joseph Frenademitz and the Communion of Saints. He will say Mass at 5:30 p.m.

Lunch at Manila Manor is P250 per person. Text 0915-3830623.

Marian exhibit

To commemorate the rosary month, the De La Salle-Health Sciences Institute has put up an exhibit of the various personas of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Organized by the Campus Ministry and Chaplaincy Office, it is ongoing on the upper ground floor of the Wang Building until Oct 15.

Featured are rare or little-known representations of the Blessed Mother in paintings, sculptures and drawings. Call 046-4160226 local 243.

Book

A highlight of the celebration of Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan's 75th birthday on Oct. 19 is the launch of his book "In Eficacionem Corporis Christi" (In the Building of the Body of Christ), Oct.18, at the Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Piat Museum, Piat, Cagayan.

The book contains his homilies, invocations and writings, as well as his autobiography.

Edited by Fr. Fredel Agatep with foreword by Fr. Rannie Aquino, the book was printed by Imprenta de San José. Cover design was by Bro. Emmanuel Quintos, a theologian of the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary.

I feel very blessed to have helped in the preparation of the book, gathering the thoughts of other bishops about Archbishop Talamayan. The following contributed: Archbishop Emeritus Pedro Dean of Palo, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales of Manila, Bishop Ricardo Baccay of Tuguegarao and Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian of Bangued.

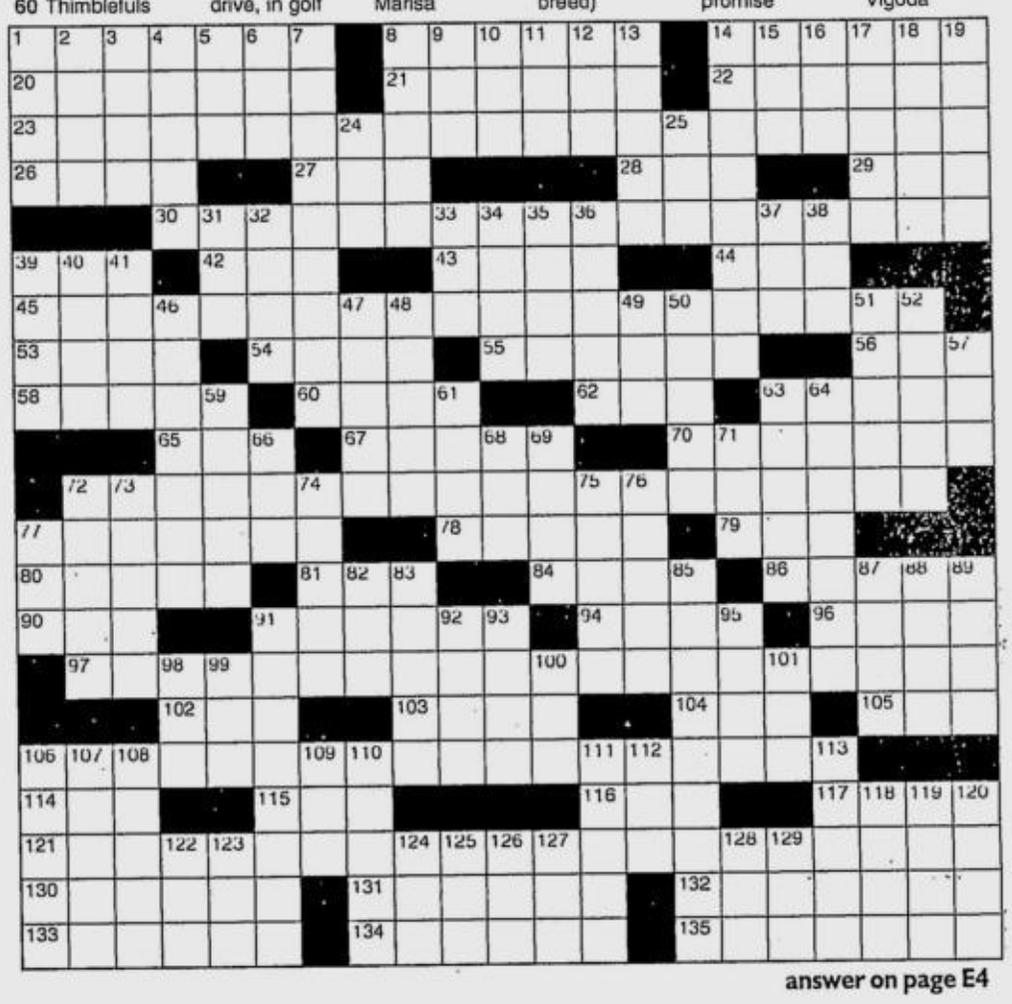
Happy Birthday, Apol

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — STAND FOR?

ACROSS
1 Postman's sack
8 Dwellings
14 California mountain
20 Go along with
21 "Raging Bull" star
22 Shoe-loving Imelda
23 CBS
26 Anti-DUI gp.
27 Have dinner
28 Suffix with human or fact
29 Edgar — Masters
30 AAA
39 "Slippery" tree
42 With 15-Down, formal chapeau
43 Rights org.
44 Building add-on
45 NFL
53 Jutland native, e.g.
54 Florence's river
55 Goat-men
56 "Zip-A- — -Doo-Dah"
58 Provokes
60 Thimblefuls
62 Vote in favor
63 Rope fiber
65 Band- —
67 Little laugh
70 People dozing
72 FBI
77 Restless
78 Storied Swiss miss
79 Jillian or Sothern
80 Car shafts
81 Playpen item
84 Social skill
86 Actor Bacon
90 In arrears
91 Legalese adverb
94 Response to a pun
96 Horse hair
97 PTA
102 Food remnant
103 Lioness in "The Lion King"
104 Vitamin amt.
105 "Help!"
106 EPA
114 By means of
115 Debtor's slip
116 Make a gaffe
117 Voting "no"
121 IRS
130 Preparing to drive, in golf
131 Cracker Jack bit
132 Lhasa native
133 Desirable things
134 Perspiring
135 World's highest peak

DOWN
1 Fellows
2 Taj Mahal setting
3 Very angry
4 — charmed life
5 Exacta, e.g.
6 Had brunch
7 Rumor spreaders'
8 Skillful
9 — canto (style of singing)
10 Wife of Lennon
11 N.L. East, e.g.
12 Poet's preposition
13 "Same here"
14 Tiny bits
15 See 42-Across
16 Pendulum's path
17 Reprimand
18 Actress Marisa
19 Beasts carrying packs
24 Long ride?
25 Iniquity
31 Rd. intersections
32 Parlor piece
33 Baseball's Maglie
34 They often beat kings
35 Mrs. Victor Laszlo
36 Full of vigor
37 Brighton beer
38 Einstein's German birthplace
39 Calls off
40 Hop
41 Pop-up list
46 Drive mad
47 Singer Baker
48 Snared with a lariat
49 Drain-opening stuff
50 Tehran resident
51 Henry Ford's son
52 Draws nigh
57 Urban trains
59 Meal parts
61 — Tzu (dog breed)
63 Liveliness
64 "The Girl From —"
66 Summer hrs.
68 Opposite WSW
69 Make film cuts
71 City in central Oklahoma
72 Renovate
73 Lazy person
74 RAM units
75 Boise locale
76 Bishop's assistant
77 Pet rocks, e.g.
82 Mined material
83 Simple kind of question
85 Distinctly inferior
87 Sweepers, for short
88 Disappear — thin air
89 Capone fighter Eliot
91 Spicy chicken snack
92 Roman lang.
93 Void's partner
95 Lick — promise
98 Delighted cry
99 Eminent lead-in
100 Hellenic T
101 Moo goo — pan
106 Madonna musical
107 Trig ratios
108 Beer buys
109 Boozehound
110 Fruit parts
111 Irascible
112 Triage sites, briefly
113 Pinker inside
118 Evening, to admen
119 Caddy beverages.
120 Has no existence
122 Cause for a playoff
123 Social insect
124 Hedge tree
125 Norma — Webster (Sally Field role)
126 End — sour note
127 Except that
128 Hollywood's Ullmann
129 "Fish" star Vigoda



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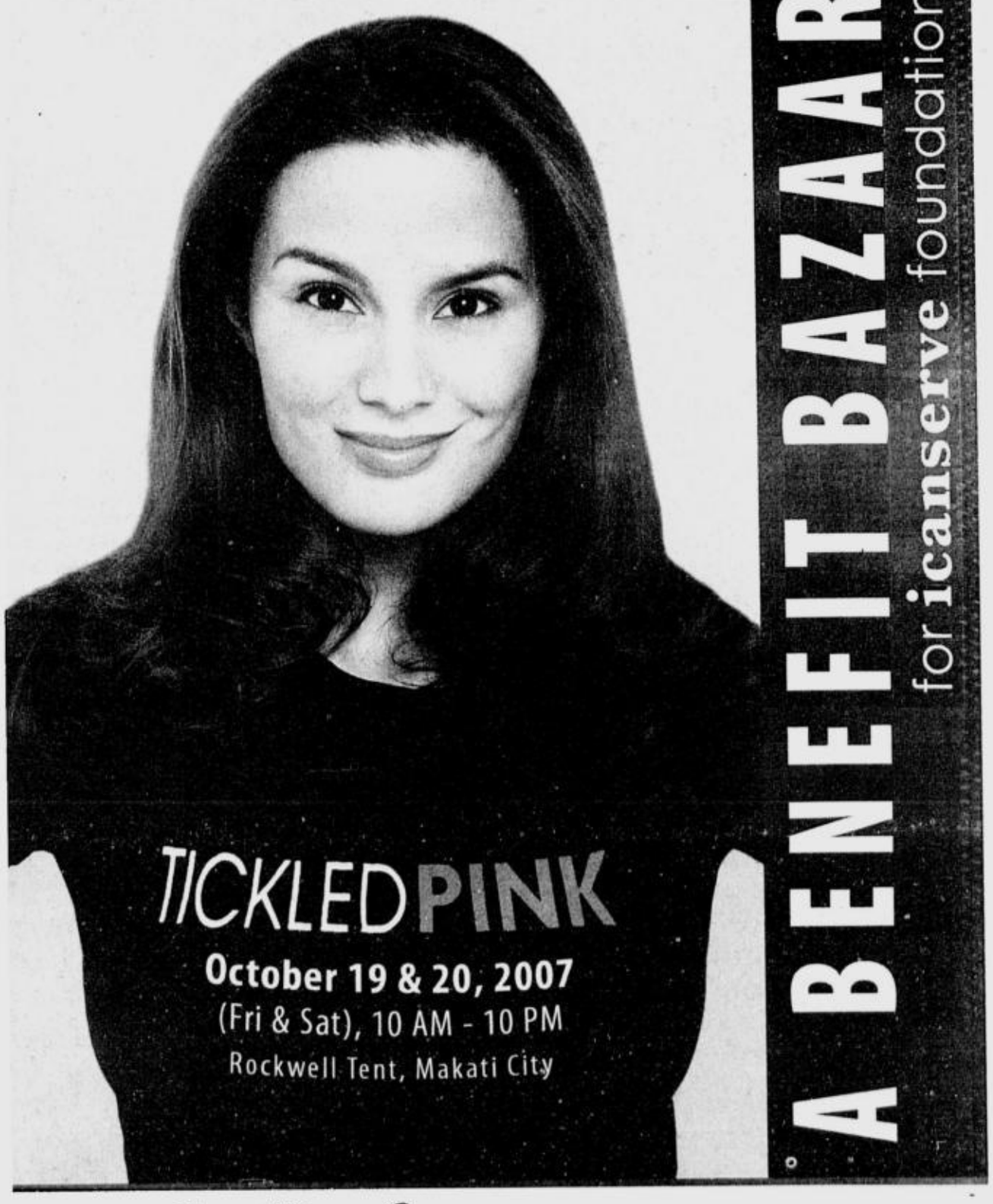


EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

21-year-old bookworm notices men for first time

DEAR EMILY,

After 21 years of existence, this girl whose nose was always buried in thick books and was busy reviewing for various academic competitions while her peers were having crushes, finally found a guy!

I had some kind of aversion to boys because I felt it was not the right time for me—until I met this boy at work. I knew there was something about him at first glance that got me! Fate never allowed us to work in the same sphere.

Many times we just averted our glances to avoid looking at each other and did not talk to each other, something I found awkward. Perhaps he is the *torpe* type of guy, but I was frustrated by my own timidity.

Nothing happened, save for some more glances and a few words. Maybe I should have talked to him more instead of just standing there when he was but a few meters away or I should have given him my office extension after he gave his.

I cannot say if he had anyone special already but, maybe we could at least have been friends. But it is too late now for he has moved to another organization.

My mind tells me to forget him. It may be wrong to let myself feel deeply for someone I did not even get to know well, but it is even sadder to know that we did not have the chance to become friends.

I fear that I will always be looking for him in a crowd, hoping we would meet again by chance. I keep telling myself to get back to my cool, unaffected self; that this is not a life or death situation.

I know that one day, when God thinks I am ready, the right person will cross my path.

CASEY

You are truly a neophyte in this game of life, aren't you? It is tough to take notice of boys quite belatedly, for the first time in your case.

Had you experienced it in your early teens, you would have known immediately that this bitter-sweet feeling is what we would call plainly and simply infatuation! Not to demean or belittle this flurry of your senses, you will get over it soon enough.

Nobody will die here as you very well said.

And stop blaming yourself for not making the first move in this aborted friendship. Nothing could be more wrong! Men are born hunters and they flee as fast as a gazelle once they sense they are hunted.

He had time to get to know you, never mind that he worked in a different department. If there's a will, there's a way and there were many ways to contact you—e-mail, cell phone, office phone. He was never into you—no matter if he was going steady with someone else. Men, even if they're up for sainthood will try, no matter what, to get their intentions known to a woman they are attracted to. No ifs and buts.

> 'It may be wrong to let myself feel deeply for someone I did not even get to know well'

They will find every reason in the book to get a girl's attention. He did not with you. Case closed.

If it will compensate for lost opportunity, let your imagination soar with thoughts of "what-could-have-been" with him.

A phrase from the song "But maybe you'll be there" fits you to a T. "Each time I see a crowd of people, just like a fool I stop and stare, I know it's not the proper thing to do, but maybe you'll be there."

Stop and stare at crowds if you want and, if serendipity happens—lucky you!

This whole episode should give you an inkling of how life truly is.

No amount of cool can make you escape the torrents of emotion once the sensation of being infatuated floods your whole being.

The electrical wiring of your intelligence goes haywire and, suddenly, you find you have entered the world of the sublime and, in all probability, the ridiculous, too.

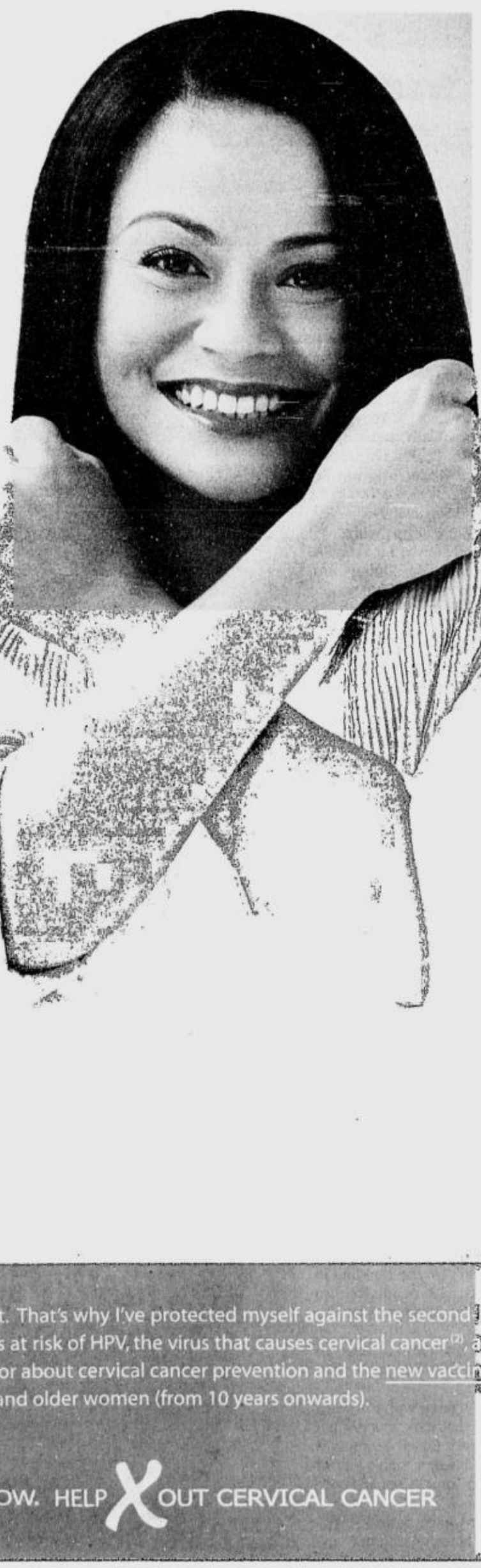
Now, you're finally living!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Log on to www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

gsk GlaxoSmithKline

I take care of my husband, my kids, my job, my house and even my parents.

So I make sure I take care of me.



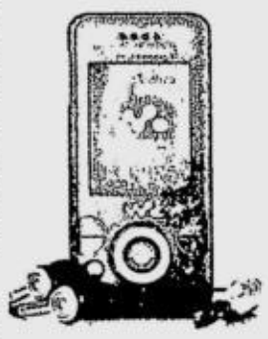
Cervical cancer is the last thing I want to worry about. That's why I've protected myself against the second [illegible] cancer in women[1]. Because virtually every woman is at risk of HPV, the virus that causes cervical cancer[2], and it doesn't matter what her age or lifestyle is[3]. Talk to your doctor about cervical cancer prevention and the new vaccine developed specifically to prevent cervical cancer in both young and older women (from 10 years onwards).

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR NOW. HELP X OUT CERVICAL CANCER

(1) 2005 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates p. 12. (2) Natural History of Cervicovaginal papillomavirus infection in young women, N Engl J Med 1998; A longitudinal study of genital human papillomavirus infection in a cohort of closely followed adolescent women. J Infect Dis 2005; Human papillomavirus and cervical cancer - burden and assessment of causality. J Nat'l Cancer Inst Mongor 2003. (3) Sexual behavior, condom use, and human papillomavirus: pooled analysis of the IARC Human Papillomavirus Prevalence Surveys Cancer Epidemiology biomarkers and Prevention 2006; Cofactors in Human Papillomavirus Carcinogenesis-Role of parity, oral contraceptives and Tobacco Smoking. Journal of the National Cancer Institute Monographs 2003.

CERV00340707

Shake it with this new music phone



SONY Ericsson W580i

THE NEW SONY Ericsson W580i has a cool new feature: the innovative Shake control, which allows the user to shift from one track to the next with just a flick of the wrist.

It comes with the Shake It version of multi-awarded Sony BMG artist Gloc-9's latest hit, "Sumayaw Ka."

"The message is plain and simple—if you've got any anxiety and you can't think of what to do to solve the problem, just dance and put it behind you," says the rapper. He had initially conceived the song as another trip into socially relevant rap music, much like his new 14-track all-Filipino CD, "Diploma." But the muse had other plans for this three-time Philippine Hip-Hop Music Best Rap Artist awardee.

"I finished writing the rap parts of 'Sumayaw Ka,' which had no title then, before I was able to get to the chorus and melodic part. My plan was to make it a serious song, but I thought it'll be better with contrast between the verses," he says.

"The verses were quite profound, and then the chorus became very good-humored."

The music video, directed by Jaime Pacena II, has been gaining good buzz among audiences as well.

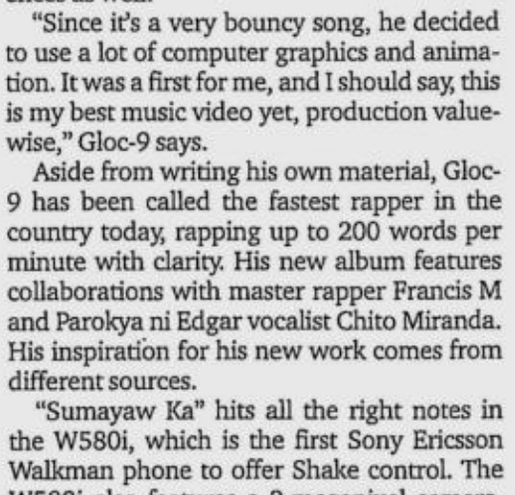
"Since it's a very bouncy song, he decided to use a lot of computer graphics and animation. It was a first for me, and I should say, this is my best music video yet, production value-wise," Gloc-9 says.

Aside from writing his own material, Gloc-9 has been called the fastest rapper in the country today, rapping up to 200 words per minute with clarity. His new album features collaborations with master rapper Francis M and Parokya ni Edgar vocalist Chito Miranda. His inspiration for his new work comes from different sources.

"Sumayaw Ka" hits all the right notes in the W580i, which is the first Sony Ericsson Walkman phone to offer Shake control. The W580i also features a 2-megapixel camera, fitness applications like a calorie counter and pedometer, FM radio, picture blogging, 3D games.

Specially marked W580i and Walkman phones like the W200i, W610i and W660i purchased until Nov. 15 in Sony Ericsson Concept shops and authorized dealers will entitle buyers to a free "Sumayaw Ka" T-shirt.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



ENTERTAINMENT

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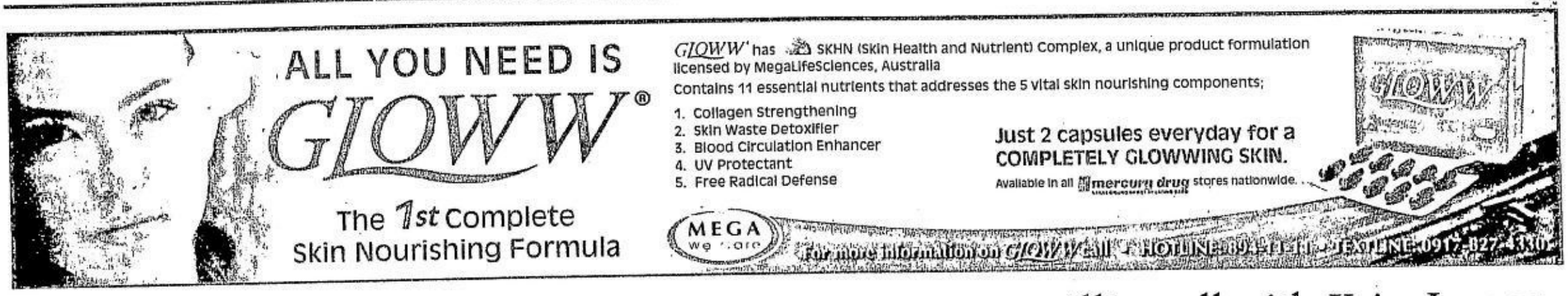


'Idol' chatter with *Regine*

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

A GMA 7 INSIDER EARLIER told INQUIRER Entertainment that singer Regine Velasquez was a shoo-in as the new host of the second season of "Philippine Idol."

This development didn't exactly surprise Regine.

"There's nothing official yet, but hopefully it's true," Regine tells the INQUIRER in an exclusive interview. "Singing contests are usually assigned to me. But things can still change. You never know."

Regine previously hosted GMA 7's flagship contest "Pinoy Pop Superstar" and now hosts "Celebrity Duets," another program concept from Fremantle Media, "Idol" franchise holder.

Clearly, the odds are stacked in Regine's favor.

For one thing, it helps that she's familiar with the "Idol" concept.

"I used to watch it. The season that I saw from start to finish was Carrie Underwood's year. I loved her story, that she was a farm girl."

'IDOL'/ F2

KRIS Aquino

All's well with Kris, James

By Marinel R. Cruz

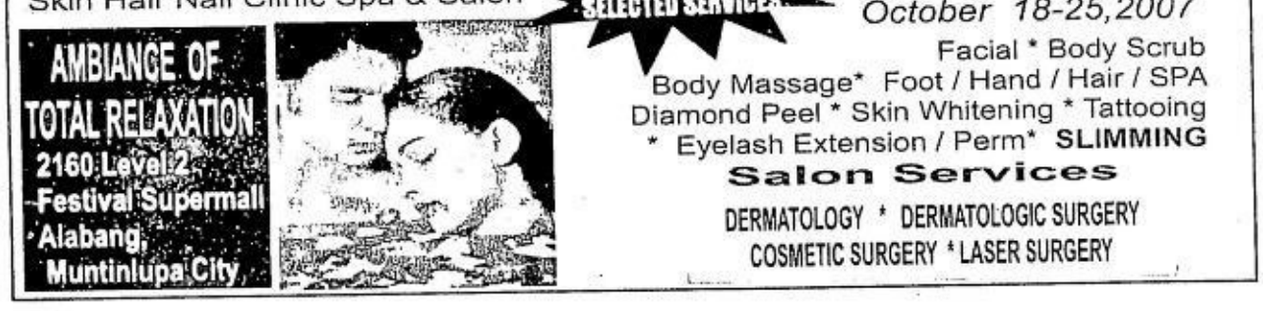
KRIS AQUINO SAYS ALL'S WELL now between her and cager husband James Yap.

"We attended marriage counseling sessions," Kris told entertainment writers on Monday during a gathering for White Flower, a brand of liniment she endorses. "There are things you just understand better about each other when a third party explains them to you."

Kris added that she and James also consulted a priest, believing that a relationship is stronger "if it has a spiritual center."

The couple, who were married in civil rites two years ago, hogged the headlines in February this year

ALL/ F2



Some dated industry practices have outlived their usefulness

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL SHOW BIZ scene has changed in many unexpected ways in the last five years. Mainstream movie production is way down, while digital features are being produced left and right.

On TV, the evening prime time slot has been transformed into "*teleserye* country," with one fantasy or tearjerker series after another being telecast, to the exclusion of almost anything else.

Erwstwhile action superstars have been put out to pasture, while TV talent searches have booted out the traditional way of discovering and building up new stars.

In the light of these and other major changes, you'd think that the entertainment industry would also update other traditional practices that have outlived their usefulness, and have become antediluvian vestiges of a time gone by.

Topping our list of dated practices is the knee-jerk use of "romance" between male and female stars in promoting a film or TV show. In the past, such facile ploys would work, deluding viewers into excitedly believing that the beautiful people they saw onscreen were actually, truly, madly in love with each other "in real life."

To sustain this profitable illusion, married stars pretended they were single, popular actors who were parents hid their children from public view, and romantic leads who in fact hated each other promoted their movies by hinting that they were a hot lovey-dovey item even after the camera crew had gone home.

Some of their publicity ploys were also palpably fake that it was a wonder anybody believed them. But, many clueless viewers did, thus encouraging producers to give them more of the same.

But many decades have passed and viewers have wised up—so why are they still using obviously fake romances to whip up interest in new TV-film productions?

Take **Angel Locsin**. When she was a GMA-7 talent, her big, ersatz boyfriend was supposed to be her "love team" partner, **Richard Gutierrez**. Then she moved over to ABS-CBN, and now she's being linked to **Piolo Pascual**, her costar in a new *teleserye* that they've started taping.

Does anybody believe that Angel can change leading men/"BFs" as quickly as she can retouch her makeup?

Another dated practice that should be discontinued is the way actors plug their new starrers: six leads are trotted out on TV to promote their new movie, and one after another, *all* of them have to intone deathless words like, "*Panoorin niyo po ang* movie *namin—pinaghirapan po namin ito—ang ganda po,* promise—*marami kaming bago na ginawa rito— at may magandang aral po ito!*"

After all six actors have intoned pretty much the same scripted spiel, you vow to yourself to *not* watch the movie they've so predictably promoted.

A third industry practice that should be put to stop is the concocted rivalry between two stars or starlets. The idea here is that competition will drive the fans of both actors or actresses to patronizing their movies or TV shows, so those productions benefit from the extra-avid patronage and support.

In actuality, however, the "feuding" stars could even be best friends, away from the cameras, so the ploy is manipulative, with viewers being taken for a circuitous drive—leading nowhere.

The practice is even more galling when it's resorted to by an ambitious starlet, who invents a rivalry or "misunderstanding" with a big star, so that his or her little-known name can get into the gossip columns and thus become more popular or notorious, as the case may be.

The big loser here is the big star who's being used by the ambitious starlet. He or she doesn't know whether to react or not. If the big star reacts, the starlet gets the publicity he or she wants. If the star remains silent, the starlet appears to some to have "won" the "argument."

It's all terribly cynical and manipulative, so the "user-friendly" practice should be consigned to the dustbin, from which it sprang.

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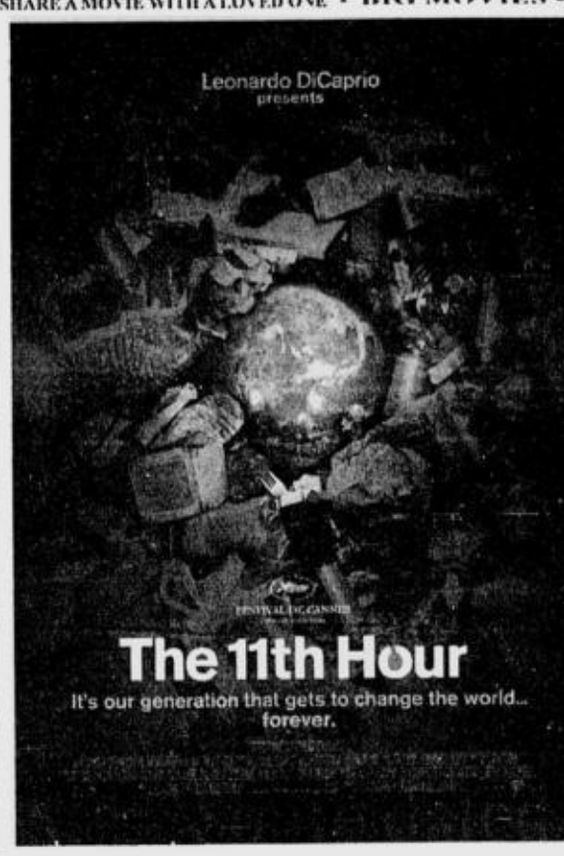

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6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 WEDDING DAZE
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 RETRIBUTION
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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6 STARDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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10 DECEMBER BOYS
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 STARDUST
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 RETRIBUTION
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ONE PERCENT FULL
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 RETRIBUTION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 RESIDENT EVIL

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2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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3 STARDUST
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
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8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 ONE PERCENT FULL

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1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
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SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
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4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

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1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 RESERVED
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 SKINWALKERS
3 STARDUST
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

'Idol' chatter

From page F1

Another edge is that Regine started in amateur singing contests, too—specifically on "Ang Bagong Kampeon."

It was on that RPN 9 show that she met Wilma Galvante, a producer then, who later became GMA 7's senior vice president for Entertainment TV.

But she concedes that boyfriend Ogie Alcasid, who cohosts "Duets" with her, is a far more earnest host.

"I'm so glad that Ogie is with me. I used to get stressed on 'Pinoy Pop' because I was on my own. Now, I have someone to exchange jokes with. When I make a mistake, Ogie quickly covers for me."

If she could have her way, she'd like to see the following celebs on the second season of "Duets":

"There should be a basketball player like James Yap, a former child star like Niño Muhlach, politicians like Mar Roxas or Francis Escudero, a fashion designer like Rajo Laurel. Also a newscaster."

Apart from "Duets," she is also working on a new movie with Ogie, produced by GMA Films, tentatively titled "Love is Blind and Deaf."

"Shoot starts at the end of the month. I play a blind pianist and Ogie's a deaf composer.

Theme song of the movie is 'Ako'y sa 'Yo," originally recorded by Jaya. "I'll also sing it in my forthcoming concert 'Ang Ating Musika' at the Aliw Theater next month. It's beautiful, like a wedding song."

Oops. A Freudian slip?

"No, we're not getting married yet," she insists.

But are they planning to start a family?

"Soon. We just need to settle some things, but as soon as we're ready ... hopefully ... We are definitely planning [to have kids]."

All's well with Kris

From page F1

when James was reported to have had an affair. They broke up, but reconciled. In April, Kris gave birth to James Jr.

"Baby James has the body type of an athlete—long and lean," the proud mom said. He has grown 10 inches, [and] is so active—he crawls and tumbles. He's showing interest in dancing. He stares at the TV when he sees the Streetboys, Sexbomb or ASF dancers performing."

Kris's son Joshua, with actor Phillip Salvador, is now 12 years old.

She is seen weekdays on the game show "Deal or No Deal" and the late-morning talk program, "Boy & Kris," with Boy Abunda on ABS-CBN.

She said her show with Boy would have a new format starting next week. But she hastily dispelled rumors that the reformat had been brought about by poor ratings.

Fast friends

"Boy and I have long thought of it," she said.

Kris said rumors blaming her for the ratings have not affected her friendship with Boy. "I guess some people just can't believe that Boy and I can have such a smooth relationship."

In fact, Kris said, Boy recently closed four endorsement deals for her.

"My family and I are moving into a new house soon. Boy told me that, until I have moved in, *wala siyang kukunin* from any of those deals," said Kris. "He's super sweet. Forty percent of my house came from Boy's perseverance. He said, Just tell my godchild (James Jr.) that these walls were given to him by Ninong Boy.'"

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STARDUST G 12:15,2:50,5:25,8:00	WEDDING DAZE R13 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	STARDUST G 11:40,2:15,4:50, 7:25,10:00

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Jonathan Badon is the main attraction in 'A Night of Popera'

THE THOMAS E. COX FOUNdation presents tenor Jonathan Badon in "A Night of Popera," on Oct. 27, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum, Greenhills.

Badon has performed lead roles in various operas, oratorios, zarzuelas and musicals in the Philippines, North America, Europe and Asia.

He has also represented the Philippines in cultural festivals in Hongkong, Japan, United States and Scotland.

Badon is a winner of an Aliw Award for Best Male Classical Performer (2004) and the grand prize in the AFP National Songwriting Contest for his piece "Dugong Pilipino."

"A Night of Popera" will have Vernie Varga as guest.

Call Ticketworld at 8911111 or Music Museum at 7216726 or 7210635.

JONATHAN Badon

Lani Misaclucha with Josh Groban

Josh Goban's two-night concert on Oct. 17 and 18 at the PICC will have Lani Misalucha as guest.

She will sing "The Prayer" in a duet with the renowned American baritone, who insists that what he's been singing all these years is not classical, but simply pop music.

For tickets, call 0918-9414217. Ticket buyers can avail of a 10 percent discount by using their Citibank Credit Card or paying in cash and presenting their Citicard.

Erik Santos at Araneta

Pop singer-TV host Erik Santos stages his first major concert on Oct. 19, 8:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

A regular contestant in small-town singing tilts, Erik went big time when he won the title in ABS-CBN's "Star in a Million" talent search. He has since recorded four hit albums.

The Araneta concert also features Sam Milby, The CompanY, Nyoy Volante, Danita Paner and Ai-Ai delas Alas. Louie Ocampo is musical director. Call Ticketworld at 9115555 or Backroom at 4351120.

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Jose Mari Chan, 5 p.m. at SM Makati

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Louie Reyes, Ding Mercado and Eugene Villaluz at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Hotel, Makati

Reuben Laurente at Gambrinus Bar, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati

Oct. 20

Freddie Aguilar at LA Cafe, M.H. De Pilar St. Ermita, Manila

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IN THEATERS OCTOBER 17
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OCT. 16
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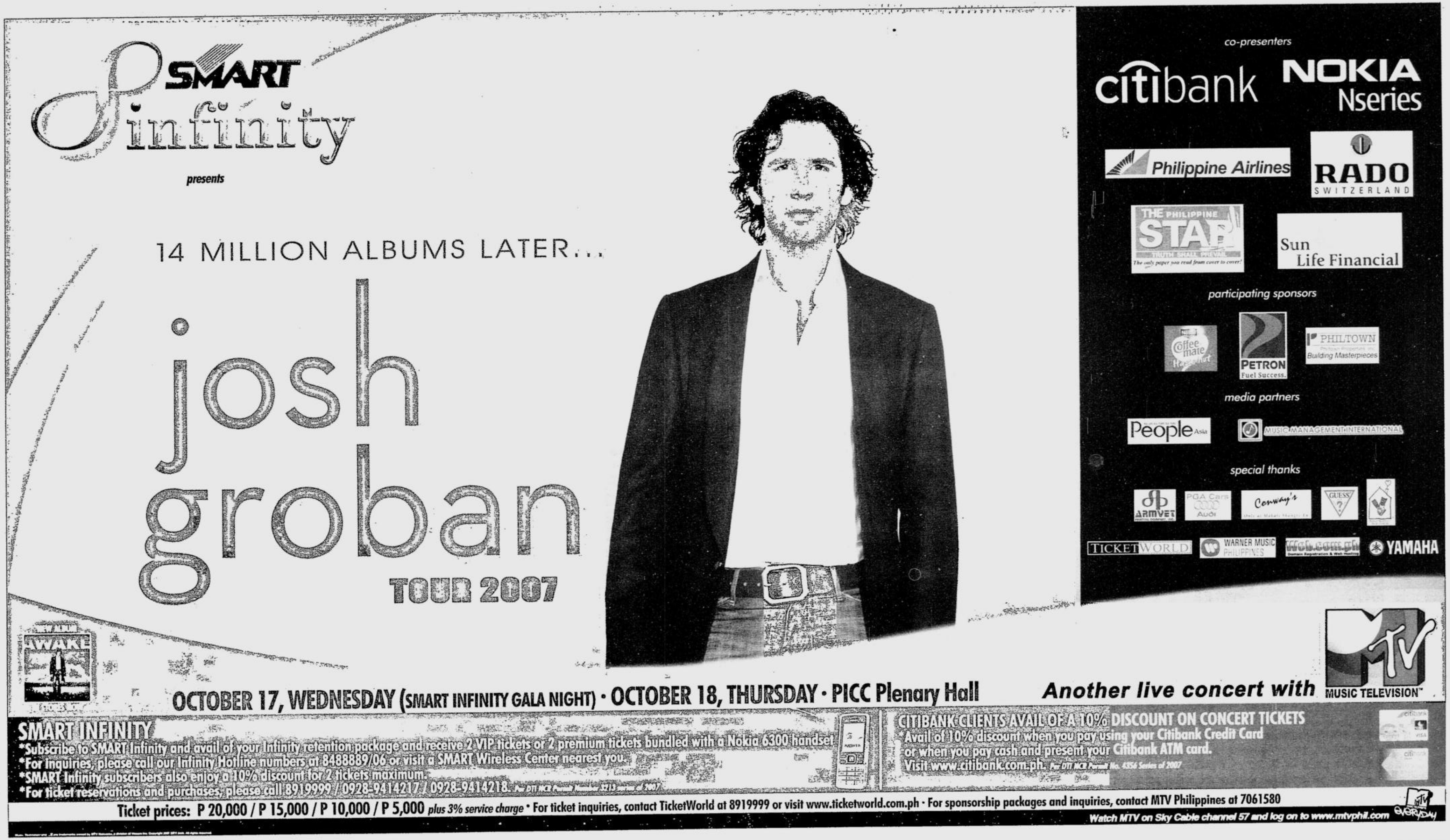
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER G1

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ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

A pregnant pause for Halle Berry

Playing mom to two kids has prepared the actress for motherhood

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—FOR SEVERAL years, every time we had a press con with **Halle Berry**, someone always asked for updates about her efforts to have a baby.

Finally, in our recent interview with the Oscar and Golden Globe winning actress in New York, she broke the happy news. She looked radiant and was more engaging than usual, no doubt buoyed that her dream finally came true. Halle wore boots and a black sheath that concealed her four-month pregnancy.

In the drama "Things We Lost in the Fire," Halle plays a widow who develops a bond with the best friend, a drug addict (**Benicio Del Toro**), of her late husband (**David Duchovny**). The actress thinks that playing a mother to two children, played by **Micah Berry** (no relation) and **Alexis Llewellyn**, set the right vibes to finally make her pregnant. She and her companion, **Gabriel Aubry**, a model whom she met in a Versace photo shoot, want their baby's sex to be a surprise.

Congratulations on the happy news that you are having a baby. What's going on in your mind?

A million and one things are in my mind but I am happier than I've ever felt before. I wanted this for so long. I knew from playing a mother and having these two adorable, smart children in "Things We Lost in the Fire" that I was meant to be a mother. So it's no mystery that right after we finished the movie, pregnancy quickly started to manifest itself in my life.

Has pregnancy been easy for you so far?

When you want something so bad, nothing could go wrong. It's the joy of my life.

What extra precautions are you taking since you have diabetes?

There are lots of new treatments. My situation, especially being pregnant, is very much under control. I do what I always did. I always lived a clean life, ate healthy, stayed away from sugar and checked my blood sugar daily. I continue to do that and so far, I'm doing really well. I was diagnosed [with diabetes] when I was about 19 or 20.

What beautiful discoveries are you experiencing?

It's an amazing feeling to know that a life is actually growing inside my body. The first time I saw the ultrasound image, I saw the little bones and the legs and I realize that that's part of me. That it's alive and it's in my care. This protective motherly instinct has taken over. I'm very protective of my belly area now. I'm very careful about where I walk and what I eat. I try to get enough rest.

I exercise and keep my diabetes under control. The funny part is, everywhere I go, everybody gives me advice (laughter). It's all lovingly given but everybody has a different method of child rearing. I have to find my own way, take some advice that feels right and discard the rest. Motherhood doesn't come with a manual.

This movie and "Perfect Stranger" were completed over a year ago. What else have you done?

I've been working.

Working on...?

Making a baby (laughter).

What have you done besides that?

That has been the single most important thing in my life. I couldn't think of any work more meaningful and time-consuming.

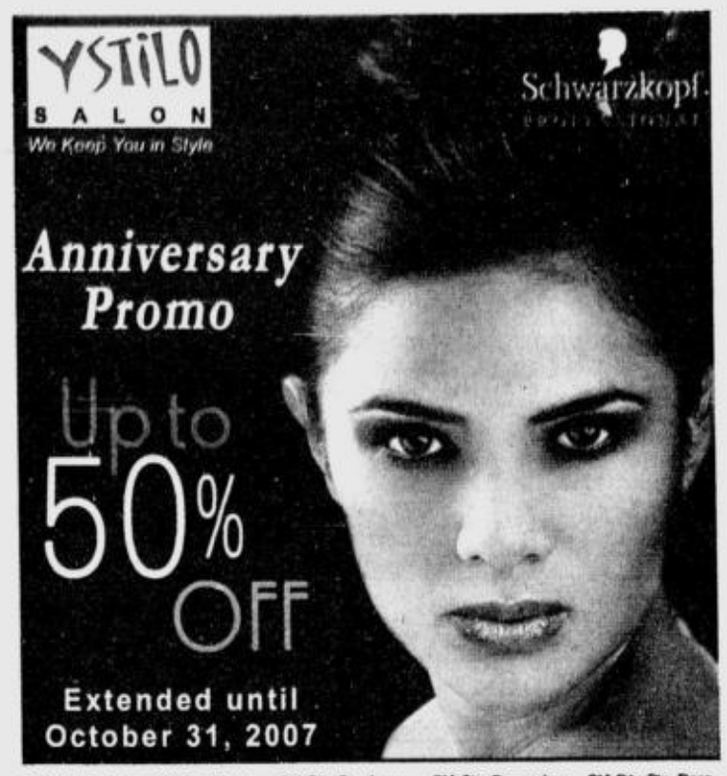
You spent a whole year doing that?

Believe it or not (laughter). At 40, that's what one has to do (laughter).

Normally, when a woman is trying to get pregnant, it takes about a year. After making this movie, I knew for sure that it's what I wanted to happen. My boyfriend and I are always in different parts of the world, doing our individual work so I knew I had to put work aside and make motherhood my focus.

You've talked before about growing up biracial and how dif-

A PREGNANT/ G3



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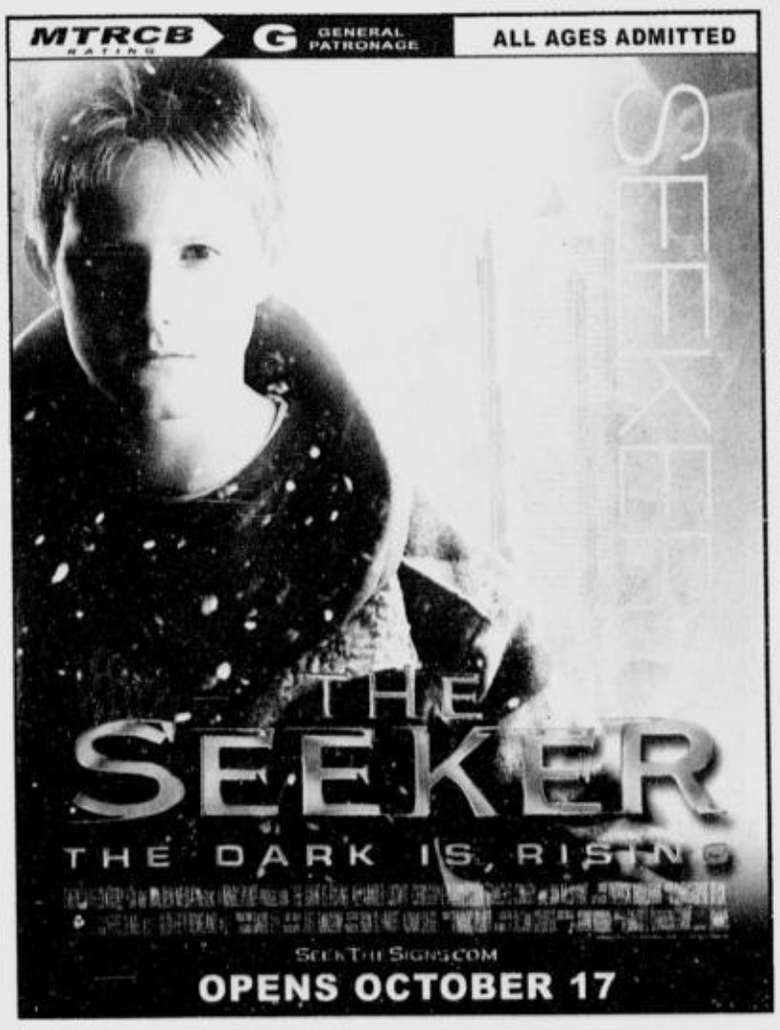

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA Ticket Price: P180 / P130 indieSine: P130 632-9116

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 • THX
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

2 STARDUST
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

3 RETRIBUTION
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 APAT DPAT, DAPAT APAT
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 Reserved FOR VOCTORY CHRISTIAN FEELOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 NO RESERVATIONS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 indieSine: STILL LIFE
1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45

9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

Gloiza de Castro — Introducing Ron Capinding

a film by Katski Flores

Still Life

Live like a masterpiece.

a film by Katski Flores

STILL LIFE is the story of James Masino, a gifted Filipino painter who finds out he is afflicted with a paralyzing disease known as Guillain Barre Syndrome. Faced with a future where he can no longer paint, James leaves his life in the city and goes on a self-imposed exile to paint one last time, one final masterpiece. Unable to imagine a life without his art, he plans to kill himself once he finishes this painting. But Fate intervenes and derails this grand scheme when James learns that he must share this exile with Emma, a beautiful and mysterious young girl who at 19 has lived a life much too old for her years. But it is her courageous and unfailing optimism despite what life has dealt her that ultimately inspires James to realize a life beyond his canvass. Her search for meaning propels his journey towards hope and redemption.

watch this only at
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
OCTOBER 10 to 16

ERMITA Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

2 NO RESERVATIONS 12:00 2:00 4:00
WEDDING DAZE 6:10 8:00 10:00

3 STARDUST
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 RETRIBUTION
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

exclusive screening

Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA
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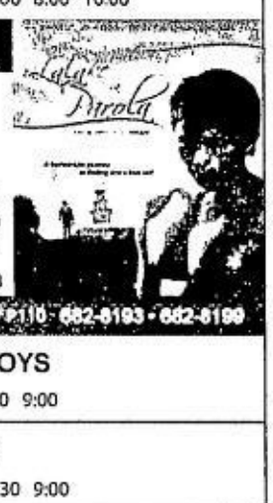
"Ang Lalake sa Parola" offers a haunting yet insightful glimpse into one man's struggle to discover his true self in a world caught between fantasy and reality. In the midst of a conservative rural community, he must choose between being straight or coming out - and ultimately discovers that truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

MTRCB Rating: R18



METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100 / P110 · 682-8193 · 682-8199

1 CHUCK & LARRY 12:00 2:30
WEDDING DAZE 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 STARDUST
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 EVENING
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 DECEMBER BOYS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 RETRIBUTION
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:30 9:00

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P100 / P120 · 936-5231 / 936-3228-30

1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P120 · 687-4970

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

2 STARDUST
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 8:55

STA. ROSA Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 537-0907 · **LIPA** Ticket Price: P90 (043) 312-5870

1 STARDUST
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

DASMARINAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332 · **IMUS** Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188

1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

1 STARDUST
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

ANGELES Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348 · **TARLAC**

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 SIGNOS
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

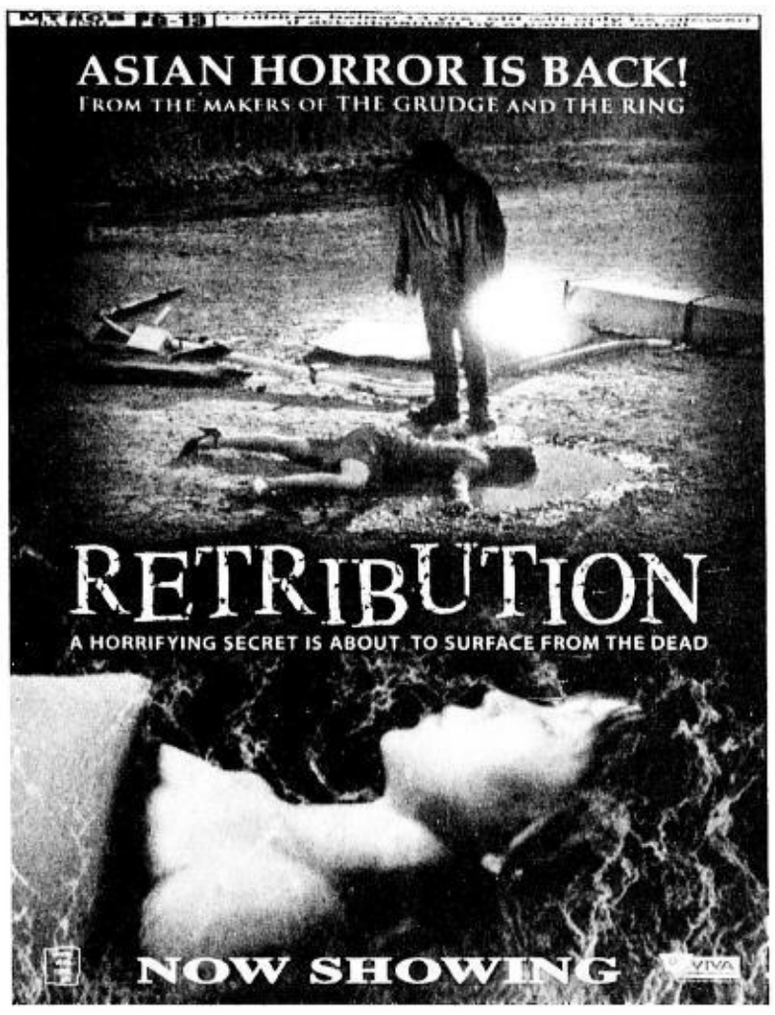
STARMILLS (049) 575-1922

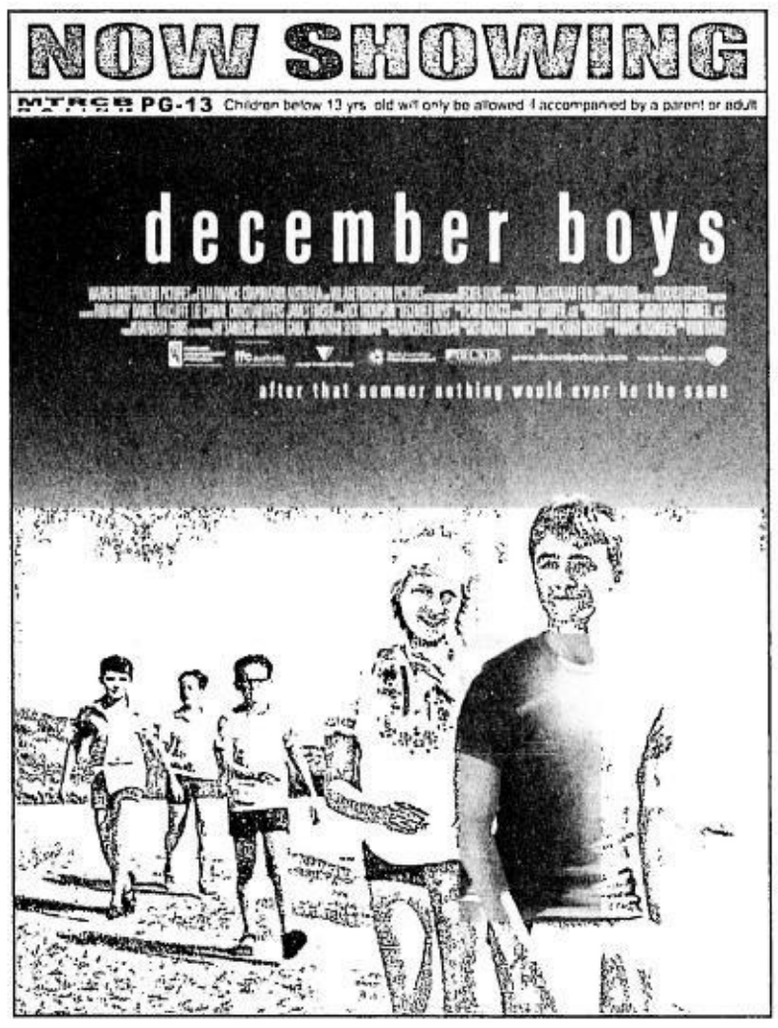
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 THE HOST
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 NO RESERVATIONS
6 SHOOT 'EM UP

BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459 · **ILOILO** Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 DAYWATCH
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM

1 DAYWATCH
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 SHOOT 'EM UP
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
G2 ENTERTAINMENT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2007

CLICK!

US kid reality show on 23

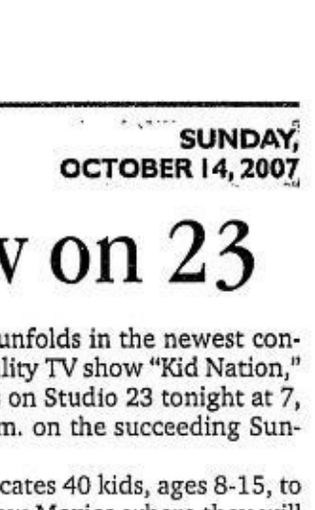
WHAT HAPPENS TO 40 KIDS LEFT ALONE in a community without adult supervision?

The outcome unfolds in the newest controversial US reality TV show "Kid Nation," which premieres on Studio 23 tonight at 7, and airs 7:30 p.m. on the succeeding Sundays.

The show relocates 40 kids, ages 8-15, to Bonanza City, New Mexico where they will have to build their own society.

The kids will be allowed to go home when they want to. Instead of a weekly elimination, the show episode will end with a town meeting in which one kid will be selected by his peers to earn a real "gold star" worth $20,000.

Mega construction



Astonishing feats of global engineering are unveiled in Discovery Channel's "Extreme Engineering."

It features projects such as the Shanghai Tower in China, the Istanbul Tunnel in Turkey, the Los Angeles Water Tunnel in California and construction of giant rollercoasters in Minnesota.

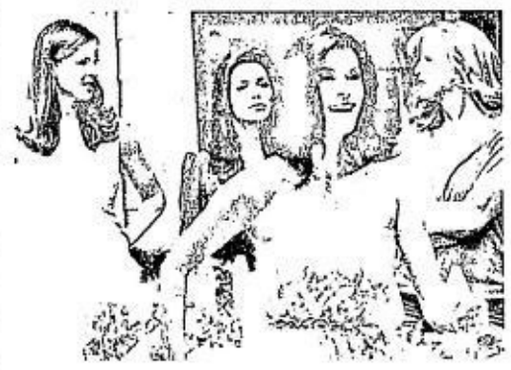
Episodes air every Tuesday at 11 p.m., with replays on Wednesdays at 2 a.m., 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.

'Food Safari'

Each episode of "Food Safari" explores a new cuisine with the help of professional chefs and home-cooks who share their tips and secrets and classic favorites.

In the series, presenter Maeve O'Meara takes viewers on a journey to uncover the very best of ingredients for Moroccan, Malaysian, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Indian, Greek, Italian, Mexican, Chinese, Thai, Turkish, Lebanese and Spanish food in Sydney.

The show airs Wednesdays, 8:30 to 9 p.m. on Discovery Travel & Living. Episodes encore the following Monday at 10 p.m.



'Desperate Housewives'

The "Desperate Housewives" episode that sparked a controversy for a racial slur against Filipino doctors will be aired on Studio 23 when the 4th season of the US hit series premieres on Oct. 18 at 9:30 p.m.

But the remark of Susan Myers (played by Teri Hatcher) poking fun at medical schools in the Philippines will no longer be aired following the decision of the show's producers to remove the clip from all succeeding releases of the episode in all media platforms.

'America's Top Model'

This month, Tyra Banks searches for the next top model as "America's Next Top Model" hits cycle 8.

Model wannabes compete as they go through the high-profile fashion industry guru's challenges every week.

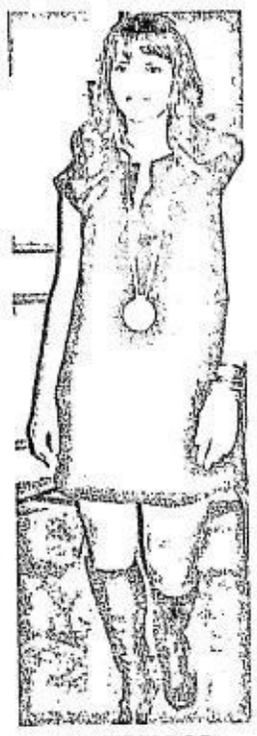
Hopefuls transform into fierce supermodels every Thursday, 10 to 11 p.m. on ETC.

Scooby-Doo movies

This month, Cartoon Network features full-length Scooby-Doo movies and special premieres on Saturdays at 4 p.m..

On Oct. 21, it's "Scooby-Doo and the Cyber-Chase" and on Oct. 17, "Scooby-Doo the Loch Ness Monster."

A pregnant pause for Halle Berry



"MOTHERHOOD doesn't come with a manual." RUBEN V. NEPALES

From page G1

ficult it was for you. You made the decision that you are black. How about your child?

I think the children will decide for themselves how and who they want to be in the world. I will inform them the best I can about what I know.

You say "them"?

I hope to have more than one. It's wishful thinking.

What can you tell us about Gabriel, the father of the baby?

He's wonderful. He will be a wonderful father to our child.

Where will you raise the child?

LA is my home. I feel comfortable about raising my family there. We also spend a lot of time in New York and Montreal so the baby will grow up all over. We'll be on the road, too, because I make movies. To hit the road and experience other cultures at an early age in life is one of the best forms of education for any child. We want the child to learn different languages. There's no better way to do that than to expose them to the world.

You said on Oprah Winfrey's show that you don't want to get married anymore. If your child or children ask you and Gabriel to get married, would you do it?

No, it's not up to my children whether or not I get married. I'm the mother (laughter). They are the children.

Can you talk about filming that scene when your character, grieving and sleepless over the loss of her husband (David Duchovny), brings Benicio Del Toro's character to her bedroom so he can help her go to sleep?

That scene was particularly odd because we knew that to people who weren't dealing with grief, it may seem like an odd thing to ask. We tried to make it as real as possible because there was a question of whether people would believe that a woman would ask someone to do that. Once we thought it through, we realized that yes, a woman going through grief who hasn't slept in days might try just about anything. We tried to make it real and find some humor in it.

And Benicio tugging at your ear the way David did to help you fall asleep—was that in the script or was that physical ad lib?

That's something we came up with on the day we did the scene. We thought it was missing something. There must have been some ritual that this couple had. We tried pulling lots of things (laughter) that day. That seemed to work the best.

Benicio told us jokingly that he did that scene so he can say he has slept with Halle Berry.

Is that all he said about me (laughter)? What about our acting? He didn't mention our work together?

No.

So just about the bed scene?

Yes. I am sorry.

Men.

Now is your chance for revenge (laughter)? What can you tell us about Benicio?

He was only sexy. Nothing else (laughter). If all he said was about our bed scene, all I have to say is, he was nothing but sexy (laughter).

Have you lost anyone close to you?

I've lost my grandparents but I was never really close to them. Two of my dogs were killed by a coyote in my backyard. It was pretty devastating for me to return home and find their bodies strewn all over my backyard. The guilt that I felt for leaving them out and thinking it would be okay, not realizing the danger—that was the closest I've come to dealing with loss.

What things of sentimental value would upset you if they are lost?

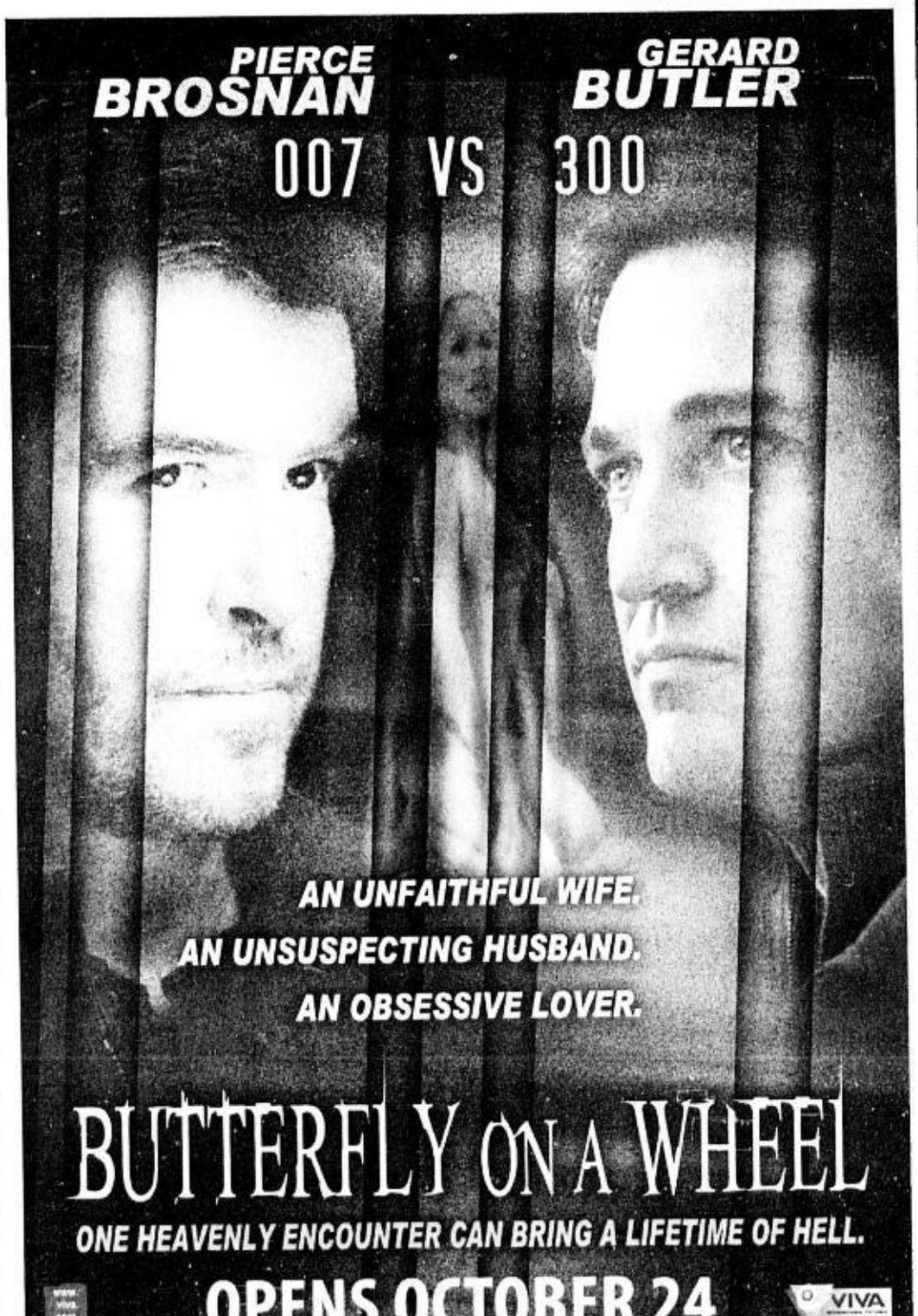
They are family heirloom kind of things. One is a Bible that was from my great-great grandmother in England. It has been passed down for generations. Now, my mother has given it to me. That's one of the few pieces of history that we have as a family. It was signed by all the women who owned it before.

The other thing is a lock of my mother's hair she gave to me a long time ago. She had this towhead white blonde hair and the lock was from her first hair cut when she was six years old. I put it in a frame with hairpins and stuff. I've called it angel hair. If I ever lost that, I would be devastated because that's another thing that I want to be able to pass down to my family members as heirloom. I will put that frame in my baby's nursery.

Have we made big strides in accepting couples of different races on the screen?

We still have a long way to go. But I think a movie like this lets us know that we're getting where we want to go. I'm hopeful because I do see things changing.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 STARDUST MTRCB. GP 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER MTRCB. PG-13 1:50, 4:30
RESIDENT EVIL - 3 MTRCB R-13 7:35, 10:00
3 NO RESERVATIONS MTRCB GP 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:50
4 STAR DUST MTRCB GP 1:00, 4:00
WEDDING DAZE MTRCB R-13 7:00, 9:10
PREMIERE THEATRE — APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT MTRCB. GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
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CINEMA 2 RETRIBUTION // KUNG FU FIGHTER 11:30, 1:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25 PG-13
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CINEMA 3 NO RESERVATIONS 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 GP
CINEMA 4 RESIDENT EVIL 10:45, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 5 STARDUST 10:45, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:50 GP
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October 18 & 19, 2007	Jericho Rosales	8:00 PM
October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
October 27, 2007	Jonathan Badon	8:00 PM

TEATRO — PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
October 26, 2007	John Lesaca	8:00 PM

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DOLBY DIGITAL-EX — RETRIBUTION 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	NO RESERVATION 2:30 / 7:10	STARDUST 12:00 / 2:55 / 5:50 / 8:45

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3pm - 6pm | Lecture Demo-4 by Taiwan Master Wu Shan Chang
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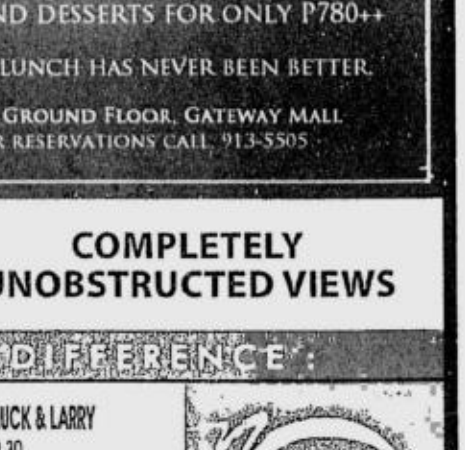
Araneta Coliseum Parking


Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

Masagana Cinema (Pasay) tel 833.3298 / 833.3274
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 RETREBUTION

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Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Bagulo City) tel (074)- (4449346)
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2 STURDUST
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
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1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 HOST
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
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Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
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Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 I FALLEN FOR YOU
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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1 HOST
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
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4 DISTURBIA

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1 DISTURBIA
2 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
3 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
4 HOST
5 CHUCK & LARRY

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
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2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 CHUCK & LARRY
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Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

stmall (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5

metropolis star www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433594
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3 STURDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

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2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESERVED
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2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 RETRIBUTION
6 STURDUST
7 CHUCK & LARRY
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 ONE PERCENT FULL

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2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 STURDUST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
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5 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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3 HOST
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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One woman's life with 2 rock gods

LONDON—PATTIE BOYD IS THE A-LIST musicians' muse. A convent schoolgirl turned swinging London fashion model, Boyd was married to Beatle George Harrison, then to guitar god Eric Clapton—and the relationships live on in song.

For Boyd, Harrison wrote "Something," one of the Fab Four's most-covered tunes. Clapton's passion for his pal's wife inspired the scorching "Layla." Later, when Boyd had left Harrison and married Clapton, he serenaded her with "Wonderful Tonight."

Even now, 63-year-old Boyd says, "there is still a shiver of thrill" when she hears the songs. "When I hear them, it's a part of my body I can hear," she said.

Pattie Boyd is the girl behind George Harrison's 'Something' and Eric Clapton's 'Layla'

Former British fashion model Pattie Boyd during the interview with The Associated Press in London. Her memoir is titled "Wonderful Tonight" in the US, "Wonderful Today" in Britain. AP

An icon herself

The songs made Boyd an icon herself. She tells her own side of the story in the newly released memoir "Wonderful Tonight," written with royal biographer Penny Junor.

Shaye Areheart, Boyd's editor at Harmony Books, said: "If you know anything about the rock music scene, you have to want to see what Pattie has to say. She was there when so many exciting, seminal things were happening. She was in the middle of this incredible scene."

The book begins a long way from the glamorous rock world, with an account of Boyd's emotionally detached middle-class childhood — a world of secrets and silences in which "nothing was ever explained; everything was a mystery."

"My parents behaved in the way they'd been treated as children themselves, which was very austere — children were seen and not really spoken to," said Boyd, who still cuts a glamorous figure, from her shiny black boots to her blond hair and cornflower-blue eyes.

"When the '60s emerged, there was all of this freedom. It was like being... a child. In the arts, everything emerged at the same time: poetry, writers, musicians, fashion designers, painters. It was really very special. I feel very privileged to have been there."

She fled her suburban home, began a modeling career and was asked to appear as an extra in the first Beatles film, "A Hard Day's Night." On the set she met Harrison, "the best-looking man I'd ever seen."

Before long, Boyd and Harrison married, exploring spirituality during a sojourn in India to learn from the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

Boyd tells her tale in a matter-of-fact, even subdued way, but there are moments when the extraordinarily strange world of The Beatles' breaks through. Before asking Boyd to marry him, Harrison dashes off to consult with Beatles manager Brian Epstein. "Brian says it's OK," he tells her. "Will you marry me?"

Clapton's proposal, years later, was even less romantic. He asked, through a friend, whether Boyd would marry him the following Tuesday. Boyd later learned that another friend, as a drunken bet, had already told a newspaper gossip column that the couple were getting married that day.

'Normal' life

Boyd says that for a time, she and Harrison enjoyed a "normal" life. "I was working, modeling, and George would... go off on tour... so what would be annoying for us is if the two things clashed."

Eventually, the breakup of The Beatles, Harrison's affair with Ringo Starr's wife Maureen and Boyd's attraction to the intense and infatuated Clapton pulled them apart. You sense things are starting to go wrong when Harrison invites a group of Hare Krishna families to live at the couple's mansion near London. "George thought it would be wonderful: We could chant together and there would be good vibes in the house," Boyd writes. The vibes soon turned bad.

Despite the ups and downs of the marriage, the book presents a warm portrait of Harrison, who died of cancer in 2001. "Eric and I were playmates," Boyd writes, "but George and I were soul mates. I absolutely adored him. He was the kindest, sweetest person."

Even after they split up, she adds, "There was always a friendship there. "With Eric — he seemed to have no limits, and I thought that was incredibly freeing, because I suppose in my upbringing there had always been boundaries. Here was somebody with no boundaries at all, which I thought represented the ultimate freedom. But... excess has to come in when there are no boundaries. It has to create some sort of disastrous situations."

His version

Clapton does not come off very well in the book. His marriage to Boyd coincided with a long period of alcoholism, and his behavior often appears thoughtless and cruel. But Boyd, now a photographer who has exhibited her work in London and San Francisco, has left recrimination behind her: "I have to take some of the credit for his bad behavior. I allowed it. I would not allow it now."

She continues: "I now know about alcoholism... I know that it is a disease. When I was younger, I just thought it was people behaving badly. Eric was drinking far too much and I just thought it was a nightmare. I didn't realize he was ill."

Clapton's own autobiography is due out next month. "I'm looking forward to it," Boyd says. "I'll plunge straight in."

Jill Lawless, AP

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2 STARDUST — 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05 — G
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER — 2:40, 8:00 — PG-13 | NO RESERVATIONS — 5:00, 10:00 — G
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT — 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 — G

Could be UK's costliest divorce deal ever

Heather Mills reportedly wants $120M from Paul McCartney

LONDON—Former Beatle Paul McCartney and his estranged wife Heather Mills spent the day in court Thursday hammering out details of potentially the costliest-ever divorce settlement in British legal history.

The former couple left in blacked-out cars after more than eight hours in the behind-closed-door hearings at London's high court.

Neither made any comment to waiting reporters, though McCartney flashed his traditional "V" for victory sign while Mills shielded her face from the mass of waiting cameramen and reporters.

Media reports suggest that Mills, 39, is seeking up to 60 million pounds ($120 million) from McCartney's estimated reported 825-million-pound ($1.650 billion) fortune to end their five-year marriage, which collapsed last year.

McCartney, 65, and Mills, a former model who lost a leg in a 1993 road accident, married in 2002, four years after the musician's first wife Linda died of breast cancer.

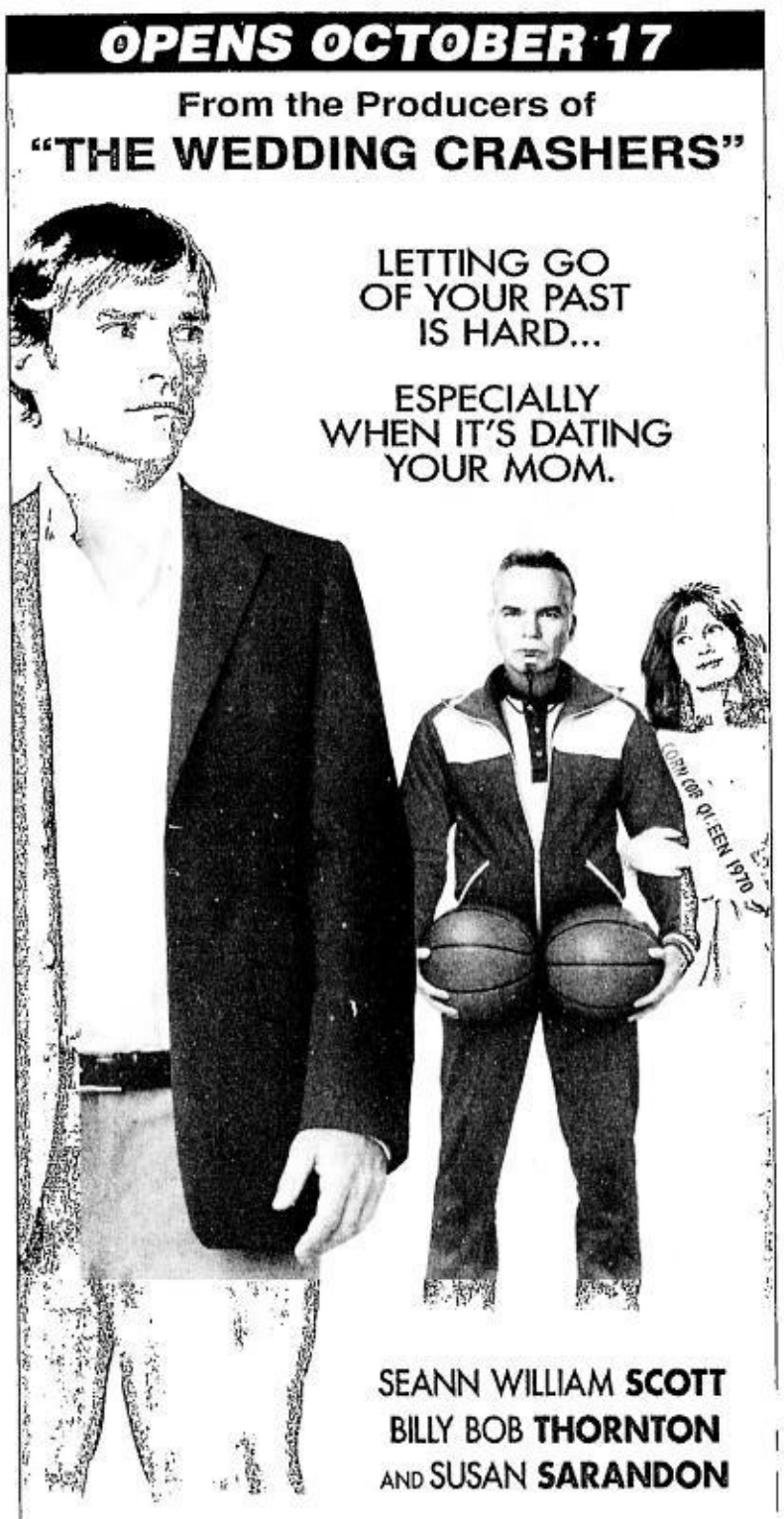
Since they split last year, the couple's divorce has been played out acrimoniously in the public eye, with Mills saying in March that securing a divorce deal was like "getting blood out of a stone." McCartney has kept largely quiet during the proceedings.

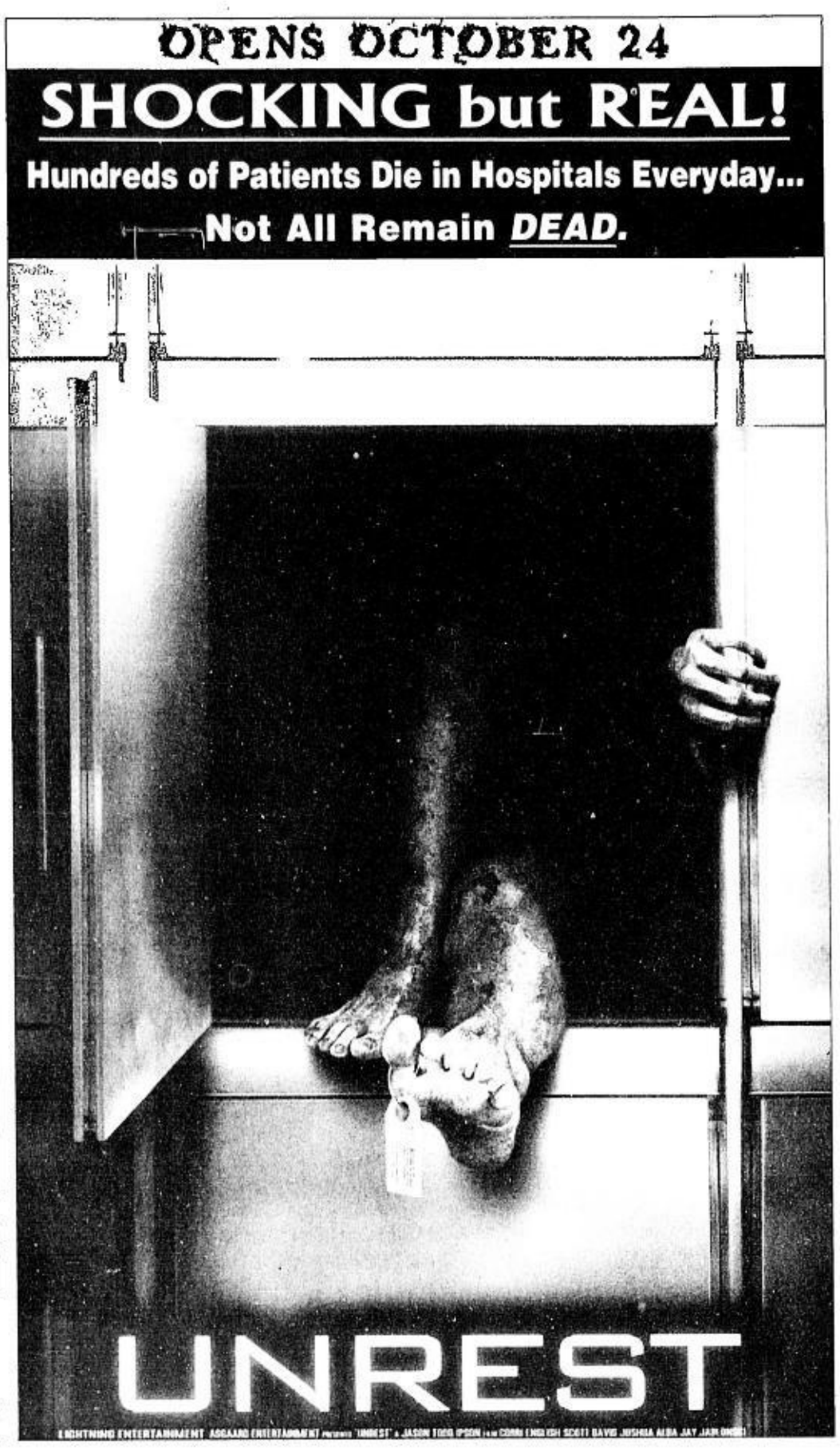
In the morning of Thursday, Mills had been ushered into the building under a blanket, followed shortly afterwards by McCartney. Both used an entrance normally reserved for judges.

Initially McCartney appeared stony-faced but during the day he appeared more relaxed, emerging several times to go to the bathroom.

During one such appearance he playfully asked waiting journalists, "Are you having fun?" and before going back in to court did a kind of mock stagger, as if he was carrying a weight.

Later in the afternoon he came out and tapped one correspondent's note pad, encouraging her to "come on" and do some work. But he declined to make any comment before returning to the legal fray. *AFP*





AT THE CINEMAS

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GLORIETTA 4	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS	3 PM STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 WEDDING DAZE	5 THE 11TH HOUR	6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	7 HARSH TIMES
GREENBELT 1	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT		2 STARDUST	
GREENBELT 3	1 PM STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS		2 PM SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 PM STARDUST		2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	
	3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	4 RETRIBUTION	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 STARDUST	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4
MARKET! MARKET!	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT		2 RETRIBUTION	
	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 STARDUST	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER	
TRINOMA	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 RETRIBUTION	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS
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Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
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TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta — BPI Appliance Madness
September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center

GREENBELT — Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit
October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby

ALABANG TOWN CENTER — The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band
October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU — BPI Automadness Exhibit
October 11 to 14; Paseos

MARKET! MARKET! — Nescafe: Soundskool
October 13; Activity Center

Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids
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Ayala MUSEUM — HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins
September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

TriNoma — Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino
October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center

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Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES

"SENSUOUS."
Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

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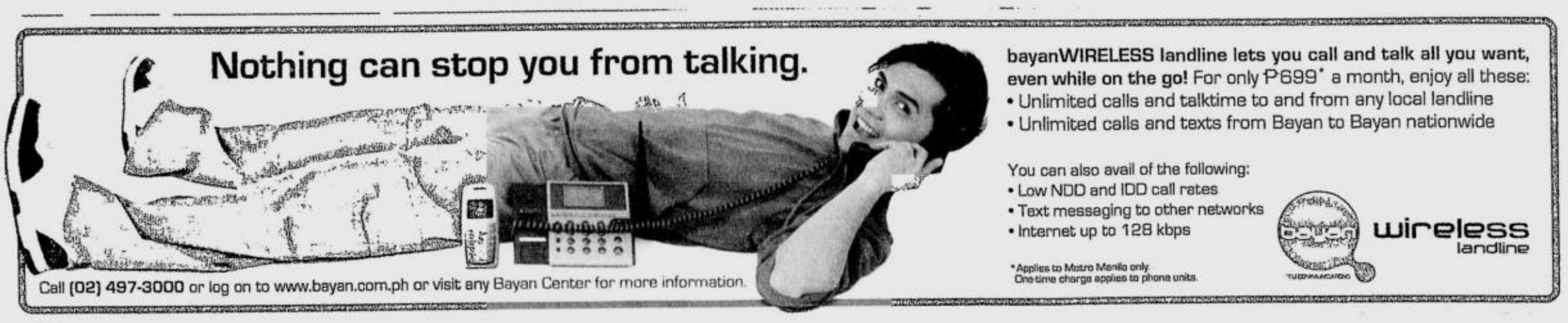


It's Greta's turn on the Net again— but this one's shamelessly contrived

By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff

ONCE AGAIN, PURPORTed "romantic" snaps of **Gretchen Barretto** with a man other than partner **Tony Boy Cojuangco** spread like the "I Love You" virus on the Net.

Expertly done like paparazzi snaps, the photos show Gretchen canoodling with an unidentified man in a parked convertible, and then in an open-air café. The man's face was artfully (suspiciously) concealed throughout.

For the discerning eye, it's apparent that the scenario was staged.

The official statement from La Greta's manager, **Boy Abunda**: "These photos are part of an advertising campaign... from the shoot for a beauty product commercial. There is no scandal. There is no controversy."

A close associate of Tony Boy's dismissed it, correctly, as "a gimmick."

Another Tony Boy colleague volunteered: "[Gretchen is] enjoying being in the news again."

A concerned friend of hers was aghast, however. "Since Gretchen just emerged from another Internet mishap (involving **John Estrada**), this may do more harm than good both to her and the product."

Apparently, there's nothing sacred for today's spin doctors. Which makes us wonder: Were all those supposed scandals involving "shampoo beauties" **Kris Aquino, Dawn Zulueta, Ruffa Gutierrez** and, yes, Gretchen— also contrived?

CRISELDA Volks

Repeat offender

Ihman Esturco, manager of **Criselda Volks**, was in Japan when he sent this text message to Rushes after we asked about his talent's botched suicide attempt: "I was just as surprised ... I've been trying to contact her, but [we] haven't talked."

His surprise is, well, surprising, considering how his ward has been acting up on *chismis* shows in the past year.

She makes the term repeat offender sound redundant.

Kapuso heartbreak

Is **Ara Mina** still hurting that **Kyla** was chosen over her to sing the Philippine National Anthem at the Pacquiao-Barrera fight last Sunday?

Rushes received an anonymous text message that claimed **Cacai Velasquez**, Kyla's manager, lobbied for the assignment with GMA 7 execs.

That's her job as manager, isn't it?

Lady's choice

In an interview with GMA 7's "Showbiz Central," Jinkee, Manny Pacquiao's wife, enumerated her choices for the "Lupang Hinirang" singer: "Kyla, **Karylle, Jolina Magdangal** ..."

That's not her job as wife, is it?

Aiko bounces back

Too soon after her separation from model **Martin Jickain**, Quezon City Councilor **Aiko Melendez** is reportedly being wooed by a colleague — an actor-politician.

Hinted a source: "He's her former classmate." QC Vice-Mayor **Herbert Bautista** was Aiko's co-star on the defunct ABS-CBN gag show "Klasmeyts." Does that count?

Madame Charo

ABS-CBN Entertainment head **Charo Santos** is in Harvard, taking up an Advanced Management Program. Is she preparing to take over as Kapamilya president?

Performers' exodus

Rushes received a complaint that a certain concert venue makes it difficult for local producers to post a profit. The complainant said the venue charges for complimentary tickes—at regular rates. *Kaya pala* local artists would rather hold concerts abroad.

Banned, banned

Have you heard about this female singer whose records were not sold at a big chain of malls for quite a while? Reason: She arrived late for the mall owner's party and did not even apologize.

This other singer was banned from doing shows—in Brunei. Reason: A lapse in protocol; he addressed royalty as though they were fans.

No sex

"A marriage minus sex," is how Boy Abunda describes his "partnership" with Kris Aquino. He denies rumors that a rift between them resulted from "Krissie's" joining his late-morning talk show. "There's no conflict that we cannot settle," he says.

Good news...

... that involves real talent, for a breaker:

Lea Salonga will top-bill what is being touted as "the biggest and most lavish musical production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Cinderella' in the Philippines." It opens July 29, 2008 at the CCP Main Theater.

Producer **Marc Routh** of Broadway Asia Entertainment says the Manila production will cost about $2 million. After four weeks here, "Cinderella" moves to Hong Kong for a nine-week run, and then to China, Taiwan, Singapore Malaysia, Thailand and Korea.

A knight's tale

This controversial actress, who's

LEA Salonga

supposedly recovering from a traumatic accident, was spotted watching a movie with an equally controversial actor. It seems to be the actor's favorite role—to be a knight in shining armor for distressed women. His ex-girlfriend said he helped her through her grief over the death of a loved one.

Jude Law 'delighted'

LONDON—British actor **Jude Law** has been cleared of assaulting a photographer in September. Law's spokeswoman in London said, quoting the actor: "Of course I am delighted to be vindicated." *Reuters*

Son, unlike father

HONG KONG—**Jackie Chan**'s 24-year-old son, **Jaycee**, mixes with the arty crowd. With a major role in "The Sun Also Rises," a Chinese-language movie that competed for the top Golden Lion prize in Venice, the young Chan was considered for acting honors alongside the likes of **Adrien Brody** and **Michael Caine**.

"I'm carving my own path," he told The Associated Press. "I've made an art-house movie. My range is greater. I'm not just making action movies." *AP*

Never too late

LOS ANGELES—**Daniel Radcliffe** and his Harry Potter co-stars beat him to it but, at last, **Roger Moore**, 69, now has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in front of an address that includes his famous character James Bond's signature 007.

Moore received his permanent spot on Hollywood Boulevard on Thursday.

His take on why he's no longer the super **Ian Fleming** spy: "I had to retire from the Bond films," Moore said. "The girls were getting younger or I was getting too old." *AP*

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

• **Kristine Hermosa**, *tulala; kotse, nakapatay ng binatilyo!*

• *Dahil sa naganap na banggaan,* Kristine shocked *pa rin!*

• Driver *ni* Kristine, *lusot sa kaso!*

• Kristine *sasailalim sa* clinical treatment.

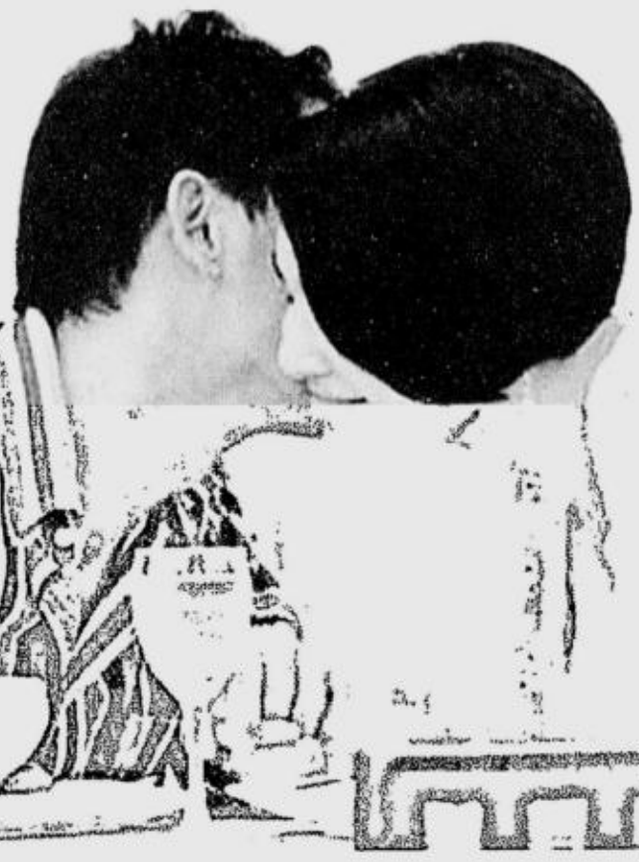
• When will Kristine be back on prime time? (After the treatment would be best.)

What's up, Pac?

• *Nanay ni* Ara Mina, *umalma kay* Pacman!

• Ara, *pikon na kay* Jinkee Pacquiao!

RUSHES SUNDAY



GRETCHEN BARRETTO and her new man. Why does this look like an ad? Because it *is* an ad! Does this mean some "scandals" are really campaigns?

• Ara, Manny "affair" still hot topic.

• *Balato ni* Manny, *hinihintay ni* Ara. (Are you thinking what we're thinking? E-mail us, quick!)

Ah, fatherhood

• *"Hindi ko pinababayaan ang anak ko!"*—**Dennis Trillo** (He's what, two weeks old? Too soon to say.)

• **Cristine Reyes** *may pasasabugin sa relasyon nila ni* Dennis T.

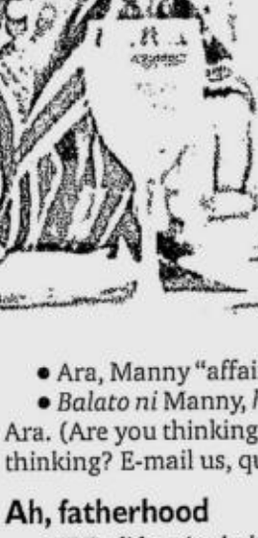
• Dennis *umiiwas mag-*guest *sa* talk shows.

Job or James?

• Kris Aquino, *wala nang* magic. *'Pag sumadsad pa ang* ratings...'Boy & Kris' *dapat magbawas o magdagdag ng* host *o* co-host.

• Lifestyle show *ni Kris sa* ABS-CBN *hindi na matutuloy!*

• Kris, *aminadong malaki ang nagawa ng* marriage counseling *sa kanila* ni James Yap. (Can't have everything.)


KRISTINE Hermosa

Stop it *na*!

• **Gerald Anderson**, worst actor *para kay* **Snooky**?!

• Gerald *ginagamit ni* Snooky *para mapag-usapan.*

• **Kim Chiu** *inokray si* Snooky *para ipagtanggol si* Gerald.

• Ai-Ai, *pinakaplastik na actress para kay* Snooky!

• **Albert Martinez**, *absuwelto sa* "rape case" *ni* Snooky!

• Snooky, *sinalo ng* Siyete.

• Snooky's "effort" pays off.

• Snooky should mend her ways. (For sure.)

• Drama *ni* Snooky, *tinalbugan ni* **Criselda Volks** *sa pamamagitan ng pag-inom ng sabon at* Zonrox.

Boob talk

• **Marian Rivera**, *ka-*level *na nina* **Angel Locsin, Richard Gutierrez** *at* Dennis Trillo. (Please qualify.)

• **Marian** willing to bare breasts in next TV series. (And then?)

• **Jennylyn Mercado** *bigay na bigay sa* pictorial, boobs *nagmumura.*

• **Claudine Barretto**, *nagpatapyas ng dibdib.*

Ay, buking!

• **John Prats**, *'di nanliligaw kay* **Shaina Magdayao.**

• *Relasyong* John-Shaina, *ibinuking ni* **Keanna Reeves.**

• **Valerie Concepcion**, *ibinuking na naglalaway kay* **John Lloyd Cruz.**

• JC de Vera *at* **Yasmien Kurdi** *buking na pero* deny to death *pa rin.*

• Yasmien *maganda pero bastos!* (It happens.)

Busy girl

• **Rufa Mae Quinto**, *sabik na kay* **Erik Santos**!

• Rufa Mae, Erik to reconcile?

• *Dahil labs pa rin si* Rufa Mae...Erik *nagseselos kay* **Billy Crawford.**

• Rufa Mae, *dinalaw ni* Billy *sa* taping.

• *Relasyon kay* **JV Ejercito**, *inamin ni* Rufa Mae. (Busy girl.)

• **Paolo Bediones**, Rufa Mae *malabong matsismis.* (*Bakit daw?*)

The real score

• **Aubrey Miles**, *ayaw pang pakasal kay* **Troy Montero**! (*Baka ayaw na?*)

• *Ano ang tunay na nangyari kay* **Jean Garcia** *sa* Surigao?

• Jean Garcia, *itinanggi na biktima siya ng* 'sexual harassment'; *pero bakit paiyak-iyak at mukhang mabigat ang problema?*

• Jean, *nagmakaawa sa* show biz press! (Actually, she could just refuse to talk altogether.)

• Jean mum about harrowing experience. (Way to go.)

• *Lihim ni* Jean *sa* Surigao, *pasasabugin ni* **Jennica Garcia.**

• Hostage issue *kay* Jean... *"walang katotohanan!"*—Gov. **Ecleo-Villaroman.** (*Abangan.*)

Battle of exes

• *May* bf *na si* Sunshine Dizon, *kaya si* **Polo Ravales** *di na eeksena!*

• **Dina Bonnevie** in-love *sa isang bagets na* foreigner.

• Dina's bf 10 years her junior.

• Dina willing to work with **Coney Reyes.**

S'pore sling

• Direk **Lino Cayetano** *at* KC Concepcion, *sabay pumunta ng* Singapore. (*Ayan na naman.*)

Go, girl

• **Sarah Geronimo** wants to be the next Lea Salonga.

• Angelica Panganiban *at* Roxanne Guinoo, *sabay magbubuyangyang!* (Please complete the sentence.)

Yes, no

• **Jackie Rice** *'di totoong buntis.*

• **Andrea del Rosario**, *feel nang magpabuntis sa* French bf.

• **Angel Locsin**, *ipinahiram muna ni* **Piolo Pascual** *kay* **Sam Milby.**

• **Luis Manzano** serious about Angel.

• Piolo *'di bagay kay* KC!

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Home Guaranty Corporation

Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is offering for sale in cash or installment one of its acquired assets particularly described as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	LOCATION	TOTAL AREA	MINIMUM BID PRICE (Php)
Ninety Nine (99) residential lots with individual TCTs	Divine Mercy Village, Brgy. Matlona, Tayabas, Quezon	12,894 sqm	P6,791,300.00

General Guidelines:

1. The sale of the properties shall be on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis;
2. All proposals shall be submitted on or before October 30, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.
3. Prospective bidders may offer to buy the property in cash or installment basis. Only cash purchase shall be entitled to discounts.
4. Terms of payment:
   - 4.1 For CASH SALE, the following discount rates apply:
     - o 10%, Spot Cash
     - o 6%, if paid within 30 days from signing of sale documents
     - o 4%, if paid within 60 days from signing of sale documents
     - o 2%, if paid within 90 days from signing of sale documents
   - 4.2 For INSTALLMENT SALE (discounts are not applicable):
     - o 10% minimum downpayment
     - o Balance payable in equal monthly installments over a maximum term of five (5) years at twelve (12%) interest per annum.
5. Bidding documents can be secured from the Asset Management and Disposition Group (AMDG) located at the 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City from October 15 to 19, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**.
6. The sealed bids should be dropped in the designated drop box located at the lobby of the AMDG office on or before October 30, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.
7. Bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before submitting their bids.
8. The award of the sale covering the properties shall be based on the offer determined to be most advantageous to the Corporation.

For inquiries, please call the AMDG at 897-3290 and 895-6250, or you may visit our office at 4/F, Jade Bldg., 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
Vice President
Asset Management and Disposition Group

(PDI–Oct. 13 & 14, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION
7/F One Corporate Plaza Cond., 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Legazpi Vill., Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City Tel. No. 817-0771

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR) is offering for sale or lease the properties described below:

OFFICE CONDOMINIUM (ENTIRE 7TH FLOOR)

	PROPERTY/LOCATION	AREA	DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
1	**ONE CORPORATE PLAZA** 7th/F, OCP, 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City	987.75 sq.m.	Condominium (Office Space ONLY, excluding furniture & fixtures)	44,449,000.00

INDUSTRIAL/ RESIDENTIAL LOTS:

1	**LAGUNA PROPERTY** Km. 71, Brgy. San Andres, Alaminos, Laguna	17,394 sq.m.	Industrial Land	8,007,600.00
2	**DAVAO PROPERTY** R. Castillo St., Brgy. Agdao, Davao City	3,696 sq.m.	Light Industrial Land	6,914,000.00
3	**BULACAN PROPERTY** Purok 4, Brgy. Santissima Trinidad, Malolos City, Bulacan	3,397 sq.m.	Residential Land	2,718,000.00
4	**BOHOL PROPERTY** Brgy. Dampas, Tagbilaran City, Bohol	551 sq.m.	Residential Lots (2 adjoining lots)	1,653,000.00
5	**CABANATUAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Kalikid Sur, (Cabu), Cabanatuan City	1,335 sq.m.	Residential Land	304,000.00
6	**BACOLOD PROPERTY** Pag-asa St. Extension, Brgy. Tangub, Bacolod	220 sq.m.	Residential Land	616,000.00
7	**PANGASINAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Buenlag, Binmaley, Pangasinan	1,506 sq.m.	Residential Land	1,092,000.00

Conditions:

1. Winning bidders shall assume responsibility of paying any and/or all taxes relative to the sale or transfer of the properties.
2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the following address:

   BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
   The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
   7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,
   845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on November 16, 2007, Friday at 2:00 PM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 28, 2007.
6. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property/ies before submitting their bids.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 or 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Officer-in-Charge, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no. 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee:

(Sgd.) **E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV**
Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 7 & 14, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes St. cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid and Description	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
1. DESKTOP COMPUTERS With the following specifications - U.S. or Japanese brand; - Intel Core 2 Duo Processor; - 1GB DDR2-667 Memory; - Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950; - Integrated High Definition Audio; - 160GB SATA II 7200 - Built-in 10/100 network interface Broad band ready; - 17" LCD Monitor; - Optical mouse; - PS2 Keyboard; - Microsoft Windows XP; - Three (3) years warranty on parts, labor and on site service.	151 Pieces	P 10,479,960.00	October 22, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	November 6, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 10,000.00
2.UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY (UPS), specified follows: - US brand; and - 500 VA/300W	170 Pieces				
3. LASER PRINTERS with the following specifications: print speed up to 19 pages per minute print speed (letter) 1200 x 1200 dpi resolution, US Brand	78 Pieces				

Only bidders registered with the Electronic Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at cost by interested bidders starting on October 15, 2007 from the Office of the BAC Secretariat.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) LEONOR T. ROSERO
Chairperson

(PDI - Oct. 14, 2007)

Housing fair II set at SM Megamall on Oct. 23-25

DUE TO INSISTENT DEMAND FROM THE government and private sector employees, Vice President and Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Noli 'Kabayan' De Castro announced today that the Housing Fair held in October last year will have a repeat and will be held yearly thereafter.

With the theme 'Serbisyong Tapat, Abot-Kayang Pabahay para sa Lahat', the Fair will be held on Oct. 23-25, 2007 at the Megatrade Hall 1 of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Participating in this year's Fair are the housing agencies – Home Guaranty Corp., Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., National Housing Authority, Pag-IBIG Fund and Social Housing Finance Corp.—and government financial institutions including the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The Vice President said that some 40,000 foreclosed properties and acquired assets of the participating agencies would be offered to both public and private sector employees including overseas Filipino workers.

"The units have an interest rate of as low as 6% per annum, and the repayment period is as long as 30 years, depending on the agency or institution. Buyers may also avail of discounts on the selling price," the Vice President said. The monthly amortization shall be paid through salary deduction. Payment in cash or Post Dated Checks may be allowed by the concerned agencies.

Each participating agency or GFI has its own set of terms and conditions for the sale of properties in its inventory. Interested buyers have to be evaluated by the seller agency to determine their eligibility for cash or loan availment.

Prospective buyers may already fill out a Reservation Form at the Housing Fair if they find a property that they want to purchase.

Aside from the sale of acquired assets, the Housing Fair will also showcase brand new housing units being offered by various private developers in their respective projects.

The complete list of foreclosed properties on sale will be made available at the foyer of Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Floor, SM Megamall Building B during the Fair. For more information, interested parties may call 812-6495.

Realty seminar and review set

THE RIZAL CHAPTER OF THE National Real Estate Association (NREA) will conduct a Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review in preparation for the coming Real Estate Brokers Examinations on Nov. 25, 2007.

According to Joyce Davis, seminar directress, the 5 days sessions will start on Oct. 20 (Sat.), 1 – 6 p.m. at the famous Max Restaurant, Starmall along EDSA and Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. The other sessions will be on Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10 and 17, same time.

The subjects include Laws on Sales, Leases and Mortgages; Real Estate Appraisal; Real Estate Accounting; Subdivision Rules and Buyers Protection Law; Family Code and Property Relations; Condominium Law; Rental Law; Brokers Licensing Rules and Regulations; Real Estate Mathematics; and Comprehensive Examination Review.

Seminar reviewer is Prof. Cesar Santos, NREA education chair and delegate to RESCOP.

Interested parties may call 491-4704; 0926-510-8482 or 913-4463.

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>=94 GREENMEADOWS Ave P25M LA875,FA400+ >DISTRESS SALE >#81CALYPSO-Acropolis QC 5br LA300. FA500sqm-SALE >KASIYAHAN HOMES-FORBES 2 storey, 12 br. garden, LA1,149++ CCT title. Asking price P100M BONI AVENUE-NEAR EDSA LA785sqm Comm'l w/income For Sale or Joint Venture >Portrero, Malabon H&l 534SQM-Distress Sale >AFPOVAI the FORT Lot/H&L/Townhouse/Duplex •Forbes/Dasma/BelAir/Urda •GreenHills/GreenMeadows/VV •New Manila/WhitePlains etc. (We have many & updated lists) Good location & INVESTMENT •CONDO>MANY CHOICES Pre-development - Re-SALE Studio/1/2/3 Penthouse units *SALE or RENT.UF / F E >SHANG GRAND TOWER "Penthouse, 3br SF 4 RENT"" "Penthouse w/ balcony 4 sale" >AMORSOLO ROCKWELL "1br semi-furnished for Rent" >ONE LEGASPI PARK-AYALA "2br 28/f facing Gbalt P11.5m" 97fa. bare, corner w/pkg >SALCEDO PARK TOWER "11a 4br SF-4 SALE/RENT"" >RESIDENCES @ GREENBELT "22/f 2br 119fa 2pkg P14.5m" Laguna Tower-Turnover IQ 08 >ASIA TOWER @ GREENBELT "9/F II corner w/pkg P5.6m" >SWIRE ELAN-GREENHILLS "2br w/good view-SALE/RENT >KENSINGTON PLACE D FORT "Brandnew 2br Improved P6m" >PASEO PARKVIEW SUITES "Specialization & Manage units" >ONE McKINLEY PLACE >PPT/ESSENSA/REGENT >SERENDRA/INFINITY/SOMA •AYALA/ROCKWELL/BRITTANY And other reputable developments
•OFFICE SPACE RENT/SALE "Small/Big or Entire Bldg" *Or let us know your need & >We provide many choices >Wehandle prime properties •We also help owners market www.propertyprovidergroup.com Pls click on"BEST DEALS"
Call 893.2056 750.4842
Aldrin 0918.939.29.79

FOR LEASE

1. OFFICE SPACES
Salcedo Village, Makati
2. STORE SPACES/ WAREHOUSES
Molino Rd. Dasmariñas Cavite, Congressional Ave., Dasma Cavite, Alabang Zapote Rd. Las Piñas
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
Bauan, Batangas

ALL RENTAL – NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-26-81 to 96
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

'00 Honda Accord VTIL A/T Mags All Power All Leather 63tkm 380T or Best Offer Tel. 251-1489

06Vios P480T 1.3E M/T 23km silver like bnew 09198457226

EXPEDITION YR 2000 600K Must Sell Low Mileage • Call 723-9208 Bobby •

CARS

2003 DELICA SPACE GEAR
4WD, A/T, JASPER EDITION DIESEL, P250,000 (NEG).....
0917843-0434 RUSH SALE !!

'99 BMW V523i
Brand New Engine, White. Like New • 0917-5387365

HONDA LX1 2002 36OK Call 5330371 for details

Pajero Jr 320T 09178227788

RYKEROLL RENT-A-VAN
07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776 / 7964377
09213497170

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr All Mall Pajero Safari Trooper MU Friendy Granvia Regius Urvan Largo Estima RVR MPV Odyssey Suzuki etc 439-1117 : 09178215832
Finance Trade-in Slot P3T

BUSES/TRUCKS

ELF CANTER 4-6W 4391117

UTILITY VEHICLE/HVY EQUIP/ TRANSPORT

Reconditioned 15 Ton Tadano Rough Terrain Crane Top Condition • 0917-5387365

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

VANS 9226702 9214535

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

4 SALE '99 2.5 Lt BMW engine used in 523i sedan, 4 cannibalization, scrap or repair • 0917-5387365

CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7225647/48

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

2nd Hand Item 4 Sale Computer set etc.
66 F. Cruz Ph 3 BF Paranaque
Tel. No. 825-9020

BILLIARDS

BLIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS: TERMS -T7213124

PETS

ALASKAN Malamute Pups 45T pure breed w/ PCCI paper 4545667; 09189235216

DALMATIAN M/F T-7261450

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BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX
& other SWISS WATCHES
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GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2, Makati
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0917-8473744
Room 603
Manila Pavilion Hotel

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CARTIER, IWC ATEX, BULGARI
SWISS WATCHES
GOLD & DIAMOND SPECIALISTS
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MISCELLANEOUS

Elect wheelchair 09178227788

ROTISSERIE Food Warmers Stainless Sink/Counters 8520485/09173281715

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE TRAINING
FOR CAREGIVER / COMP. COURSE
3026893 • 5280722 • 5280730

AUCTION SALE

Malanday-Filipinas Pawnshop Malanday Val. City, All Unredeemed Pledges of APR & MAY 2007, Will be Auctioned on Aug. 24, 1:00p.m. Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer. (PDI Oct. 14, 2007)

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-Ilog Marilao, Bul. All Unredeemed Pledges of APR 2007 will be Auctioned on OCT 24 9:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer. (PDI- Oct 14, 2007)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Allw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of APRIL 2007 will be Auctioned on Oct 24, 10:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer. (PDI- Oct 14. 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 30, Page # 7, Book # XII Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Gula of Parañaque City. (PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF PERFECTO VALENZUELA WAS EXECUTED BEFORE NOT. PUB ANTOLIN OLIVA ON SEPT 20 2007 PER DOC NO 303 BOOK NO 4 PAGE NO 19 SERIES OF 2007 (PDI-Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 323, Page # 66, Book # VI Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Gula of Parañaque City. (PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Glorioso V. Valdez was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. #0492, Page #100, Book #III, Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Aileen D. Regio of Makati City. (PDI - Oct. 7, 14, 21, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Starland Properties, Inc. has served Notice of Termination to **Quantum Hotels and Resorts, Inc.** (Quantum for brevity) of the Subic Holiday Villas Hotel Management Agreement effective October 31, 2007.

Hotel bookings/contracts made or entered into by Quantum for the Subic Holiday Villas from this day onwards, including terms and payments already made to Quantum, should be immediately communicated with this law office on or before October 31, 2007.

Quezon City, October 4, 2007.

CORPUZ AND ASSOCIATES
Counsel for Starland Properties, Inc.
Suite 305, Xavierville Square Condominium,
No. 38 Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights,
Quezon City
Tel. No. 426-3002-04 loc. 41

(PDI - Oct. 14, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 130, Page # 27, Book # XI Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Gula of Parañaque City. (PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GIL ABLAN & PACITA ABAÑO was extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc#295 Page#59 Book#59 Series of 2007 by Notary Public Editha P. Talaboc, City of Manila. (PDI - Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Spouses Generoso del Rosario and Rufina Cacha del Rosario was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 829 Page 166 Book X Series 2007 before Notary Public Atty Milagros Ramin-francia of Quezon City. PDI - Oct 14, 21 & 21, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MINDA S. REGLOS was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 289 Page No. 58 Book No. 13 Series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty. Anatalio P. Gadia of Lipa City (PDI-Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 200)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RUPERTO L. SAN JUAN has been extrajudicially settled as per Doc 471 Page 095 Bk 3 Series of 2007 Before Notary Public Atty. Edwin P. Cruz of Taytay Rizal (PDI- Oct. 7, 14, 21, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MA. DOLORES C. IDEA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 2; Page No. 1; Book No. 1; Series of 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Angela C. Ylagan of Makati City (PDI-Sept.30,Oct.7&14,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FRANCISCO TAN and VIRGINIA CHENG TAN was extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. No. 67, Page No. 14, Book No. 57, Series of 2007 before Notary Public Socrates G. Maranan of Manila. (Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CLEOFE SAILE was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc.688 Page75 BookXXXIII Series 2004 before Notary Public Edgar J. Baguio of Dipolog City (PDI – Oct. 14, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given the lost EBC Stock Cert. 36527 with 400 shares issued REBECCA M. SANTIAGO. If no contest received new cert to be issued. (PDI-Oct. 14,21&28, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that BPI Managers check no. 0005040 in the amount of P312,500.00 was issued in the name of DANIEL CRUZ by BPI Family Bank,Pasig Branch was declared lost.If found call 09165726506-Daniel (PDI-Sept. 30,Oct. 7 & 14,2007

Notice is hereby given that ATLAS Consolidation Mining and Development Corporation,stock certificate nos. 00042773,00047628 00048228,00058265 00099966,A 00009849 A 00065399 A 00109584,A 00136820 A 00174388,A 00207421 A 00248007 issued to ELIAS POBLETE was reportedly lost.If no contest is received new certificates will be issued (PDI-Oct.7,14 & 21,2007)

Notice is hereby given the lost of Equitable PCIB Stock Certificate Nos. 22969, 22970, 27642 with total of 345 shares issued to Anna Francisca T. Castaneda. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. PDI-Sept. 30. Oct. 7&14, 2007

PROPERTIES IN PRIME LOCATIONS FOR SALE!!!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES NOW!

COMMERCIAL LOTS IN BULACAN
- 200 TO 500 SQ.M. COMML LOTS ALONG MCARTHUR HIGHWAY, 45 KMS FROM QUEZON CITY
- INSIDE INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION

WAREHOUSE FOR SALE IN BULACAN
- ONE STOREY CONCRETE ABUNDANT WATER SUPPLY, THREE PHASE ELECTRICITY BY MERALCO WITH DIRECT DIAL TELEPHONE LINE 707.25 SQUARE METERS FLOOR AREA.

FARM LOTS W/ FRUIT BEARING TREES IN ORANI, BATAAN
- FARM LOTS, 110 KMS FROM MANILA, 25 KMS. FROM SUBIC, 500 TO 1,000 SQ.M. WITH FRUIT BEARING TREES 9 FEET TALL, PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE, CLUBHOUSE TENNIS & BASKETBALL COURT, SWIMMING POOL & JACUZZI.

PRIME PROPERTY IN CABANATUAN CITY
READY FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
- 7.1 HAS. APPROVED SOCIALIZED/LOW-COST HOUSING SUBDIVISION
- 2 RAWLANDS AT 1.3 HAS. EACH BESIDE A FULLY DEVELOPED SUBDIVISION.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN CABANATUAN CITY
- 1.2 HAS PRIME COMMERCIAL LOT

FOR INQURIES PLEASE CALL: 374-2584/372-3206/ 371-9702/371-9706/410-6688/410-8367 TO 69/0917-5555262

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW CONSIGN Infant Kid Teen Adult wear09178830002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

JAPANESE RESTO SM MLA 600K NEG 0919-4274809

DEALERS

GO! MAGNEGOSYO NA!
SAN MIGUEL Prod. & More! W/ UR 10T EARN 50T MORE! Grace 642-5864 • 0917-9876309

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
SWISS WATCHES BEST PRICE
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CAREGIVER • 302-6893

DepED Makati Vacant Position TCH1-50455-1998

Engr-ECE,ME,IE,EE,CE
Welder Fabricator
Svisors HR Asst Acctnt
Sales Agent Sec 8538671

FAMILY CHEF
W/ Experience in Indian & Continental Cuisines Prfrbly Living w/in Paranaque area Pls. Email resume/biodata to: lkh.rosh@gmail.com

HIRING FEMALE ACCTG GRAD AGE 20-35 TEL# 2424586 2425025

Nurse (for Ambulance Patient) Female, willing to stay in, mature, responsible & hardworking, Call 8128882 during office hour or fax resume @ 8154703

SEC SINGLE FEM 741-7060
ACCTNG CLERK 741-3214

SMART COMPUTERS WITH COMPUTERS, apprenticeship program, Baguio, free board, nutritious meals, allowance, a2@helpme@gmail.com

WANTED THERAPIST CALL 910-5410

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Private firms, schools support D-WOW career Expo 2007

REPRESENTATIVES FROM DIFFERENT private companies belonging to Key Employment Generators (KEGs) and Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) pledge support to the holding of Discover the World of Work (D-WOW) Career Expo 2007. Aimed at influencing the career decisions of high school students who are about to take tertiary education and eventually enter the world of work, the expo, will bring in companies to showcase their business profile while selected colleges and/or universities will provide information on course offerings responsive to future in-demand jobs.

According to DOLE-NCR OIC-Regional Director Raymundo G. Agravante, D-WOW is a comprehensive career guidance program focusing on the potential members of the labor force particularly 3rd and 4th year high school students who have yet to make decisions on their future careers. Director Agravante said that D-WOW is a pro-active labor market strategy that influences in shaping both the potential and present manpower supply to prepare them in meeting the needs and requirements of the industry.

The Career Expo will bring together in one venue the companies and HEIs so our future members of the labor force (or the high school students) will make an informed choice on the kind of career they would like to pursue after graduating from college or after taking a vocational course. This way job and skill mismatch or structural unemployment will be addressed gradually.

Selected companies who will showcase their business profile during the expo belong to key employment generators include Cyberservice, Aviation, Health, Wellness and Medical, Tourism, Hotel and Restaurant, Agribusiness and Maritime. This early, Asian Hospital and Medical Center, Manila Pavillon and Aboitiz Transport System Corp., (Superferry) have signified their support and participation in the D-WOW project.

The expo, is a joint undertaking spearheaded by the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCII) and the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region (DOLE-NCR). Preparations are well underway with its tentative date slated on the Nov. 23 in celebration of FFCCCII's 54th anniversary.

AMWU

Coming to Australia on Visa 457?

Consider this:

Many Australian companies are advertising for trade workers to come and work in Australia thru the Visa 457 scheme.

There have been many cases of workers from the Philippines forced to sign blank contracts, being charged exorbitant 'migration fees' by employers, and being forced to live in overpriced accommodation that leaves them with little pay. The Australian 457 Visa laws also make it difficult to change employers without having to return to your home country first.

If you are offered work in Australia, consider your contract carefully.

Before you sign up:

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) has provided assistance to many Filipino workers who have been exploited under 457 visas. We defend the rights of our members to receive the correct pay and be provided decent working conditions.

So contact us for assistance before you leave the Philippines.

The AMWU Helpdesk phone number is +61 2 8863 7900
Email address: amwu@amwu.asn.au

Contact Persons:

New South Wales (NSW):

Paul Bastian
Phone: +61 2 9897 2011
Fax: +61 2 9897 2219
133 Parramatta Rd, Granville

Queensland (QLD)

Andrew Dettmer
Phone: +61 7 3236 2550
Fax: +61 7 3236 2089
366 Upper Roma St, Brisbane

South Australia (SA)

John Camillo
Phone: +61 8 8366 5800
Fax: +61 8 8364 2219
229 Greenhill Rd Dulwich

Tasmania (TAS)

Anne Urqhart
Phone: +61 3 6228 7099
Fax: +61 3 6228 7503
28 Station St, Moonah

Victoria (VIC)

Steve Dargavel
Phone: +61 3 9230 5700
Fax: +61 3 9230 5786
251 Queensberry St, Carlton South

Western Australia (WA)

Jock Ferguson
Phone: +61 8 9223 0800
Fax: +61 8 9225 4744
121 Royal St, East Perth

Or you can ring 421-1049 in Manila and ask for Australian 457 visa assistance.

Protect your rights to work. AMWU is here to help you!

paid advt. by AMWU

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-6626 to 29 • (632) 929-6252
929-6620 • 929-6633 to 35 • 929-7041 to 43

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Second Land Administration and Management Project
Loan No. 7298-PH

PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT
IFB No. LAMP 2 –ICB-G-01-2007 (Repackaged)

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the cost of the Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP 2), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Various Information Technology Equipment. The package is composed of two (2) lots as follows:

Lot No.	Description
1	Computers and Peripherals
2	Printers and Scanners

2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply and delivery of various Information Technology Equipment. The delivery period is within forty-five (45) calendar days from receipt of the Purchaser's Notice to Proceed (NTP).
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Assistant Secretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects (BAC-FAPs) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from October 15 to December 5, 2007 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. Qualification requirements include technical, financial and legal documents such as: (i) Bidder's ongoing and completed contracts similar to the package for bidding; (ii) Bidder's audited financial statements; (iii) Manufacturer's authorization in case the Bidder is not the manufacturer or producer of the Goods it offers to supply; and (iv) authorized Philippine representative equipped and able to carry out maintenance, repair and spare parts stocking obligations for bidders not doing business within the Purchaser's country. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Philippine Pesos Five Thousand (PhP 5,000.00) or in US Dollars One Hundred Fifty (US$ 150.00) excluding courier fee. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents will be sent either by airmail, surface mail or courier services.
7. The DENR BAC-FAPs will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 7, 2007 at 10:00 AM at FASPO Conference Room, FASPO Bldg., DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 NOON of December 5, 2007. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 1:00 PM of December 5, 2007.
9. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in local currency or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency as follows:

Lot No.	Description	Letter of Credit	Bank Guarantee
Lot 1	Computers and Peripherals	PhP 156,321.47	PhP 234,482.20
Lot 2	Printers and Scanners	PhP 104,390.00	PhP 156,585.00

10. The address referred to above is:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects Secretariat
(BAC-FAPs Secretariat)
FASPO Building, DENR Compound
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Telephone Nos. (632) 927-6755 (632) 929-6626 to 29 local 2055
Fax No. (632) 927-6755

ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH
Assistant Secretary and Chair,
Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects

(PDI - Oct. 14, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following series of Official Receipt (OR) and Provisional Receipt (PR) of SCANASIA OVERSEAS, INC. are missing:

OR #	PR #
136655	45407
136667	45408
136668	45409
136672	
136453	

All transactions involving the use of the said receipts are therefore considered as INVALID.

For further inquiries, please call our office @ 815-0123

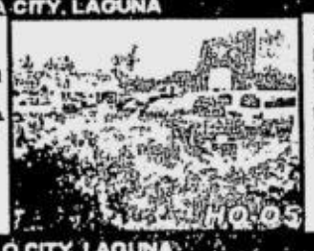
(PDI – October 9, 14 & 22, 2007)

LDB LUZON DEVELOPMENT BANK

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

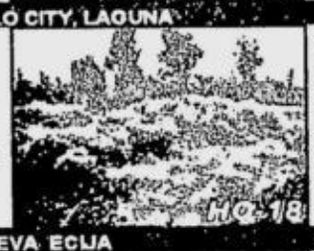
AVAILABLE ON BOTH CASH AND INSTALLMENT

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA
10,309 sq meters
3 parcels of lot along National Road located at Brgy Halang, Calamba City, Laguna. Perfect location for a Commercial Development.



STA ROSA, LAGUNA
1,440 sq meters
Located at Don Jose, Sta Rosa, Laguna. This property is ideal for Commercial and Residential Development.

SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA
44,746 sq meters
Located along Brgy Road of San Miguel, San Pablo City, Laguna. Perfect location for Farm and Residential Development.



TRECE MARTIREZ, CAVITE
43,777 sq meters
Located near the Provincial Capitol of Cavite at Trece Martirez. This property is ideal for Commercial and Residential Development.

NUEVA ECIJA
529,021 sq meters
Located at Callos, Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija. Best location for Farm and Residential Development.

DALAHICAN, CAVITE
2,810 sq meters
Located at National Road, Dalahican, Cavite with a school building with a floor area of 3,583.80 m².

STA CRUZ, LAGUNA
4,000 sq meters
Property located at Pagsawitan, Sta Cruz, Laguna. Perfect location for building a School, Fast Food Store, Hospital and Bus Terminal.

LIPA CITY, BATANGAS
9,062 sq meters
Located at Calamias, Lipa City, Batangas. Perfect location for Farm and Residential Development.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS. RATES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE W/O PRIOR NOTICE
Interested buyers may call LDB HEAD OFFICE (049) 531-3700 look for Alfie or contact Cesar at 0921-4054716
You may also email us at atlantican@luzondevbank.com.ph or visit our website www.luzondevbank.com.ph

---

You better watch out, you better not cry,
You better not pout, we're telling you why...

PUREFOODS HORMEL

The Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc.
is coming to town!

Help bring Christmas to millions of Filipino homes.

The Purefoods Hormel Company Inc., makers of value-added processed meats, is in need of

TRUCKERS

(who have been good all year) to help spread volumes of Christmas Products from its Marikina and Cavite plants to the Greater Manila Area and the Luzon Provincial Areas.

We're making a list, and checking it twice. If you fit the description, then that would be nice!

Truck Type	AUV's/Trucks (1.0-10.0 tons capacity)
Body Type	Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period	October 01, 2007 to December 31, 2007

To find out how you can bring Christmas to town and earn from it, contact:

MR. PERRY C. RUTAQUIO
At the following address and telephone numbers:
THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55 • Local 253, 257, 258 and 340
Fax Number 645-4535 and 646-9556 • Cellular No. 0917-8050116

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

RECEPTIONISTS

- Female, preferably graduate of any four (4) year course
- 21-28 years old
- At least 5'4" in height
- With pleasing personality
- With at least 1 year experience and computer literate

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Accounting graduate
- Female not more than 30 years old
- With or without experience
- Computer literate

SOLIMAN SECURITY SERVICES, INC.
Recruitment Office
Room 404, Ermita Center Bldg.,
1350 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila
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1 Sanitary / Master Plumber
1 Electrical Engineer
1 Secretary – Makati resident

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

PRPA LICENSE NO. M-07-00-283 ☑ New ☐ Renewal
TIN-243-970-648-000

This license to recruit, process and deploy landbased workers is hereby granted to

MSA IMPEX MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.
134 B.G. Molina Street, Parang, Marikina City

pursuant to the Labor Code and Omnibus Rules implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid in the Philippines for the period 03 October 2007 to 02 October 2009 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer or use by any other person or entity renders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 3rd day of October 2007.

(Sgt.) RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI - Oct. 14, 2007)

St. James Academy reunion

MALABON JAMER-batch '86 will hold a re-union entitled "Balik Tanaw" on December 29, 2007, 5:00 p.m. at the Oasis, Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 4472525 or 09189379587 look for Arnold Naval or Bernice.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2007

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Surf for free with Nokia Nseries and Airborne Access!

CATCH UP WITH YOUR FRIENDS, DO business, shop till you drop - all from your mobile device! Ain't the Internet grand? Now imagine being online--virtually anytime and anywhere. Declare your independence from your office, your house, or your couch.

All Nokia Nseries users who log in to any Airborne Access hotspot from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 will instantly get six months worth of free WiFi usage. With the Nokia Nseries, you have free Internet access at any of the Nokia Nseries WiFi Zones across the country.

So get to your favorite sites, download the latest tracks, send and receive e-mail, update your blog, play games, do pretty much anything you want!

Nokia Nseries 'all-in-one' Multimedia Computers come equipped with megapixel cameras to capture picture perfect moments, and large built-in memory capacity with expandable memory slots to accommodate more music and files. The Nseries WiFi enabled devices enables users to gain quick access to mobile Internet for browsing, sharing, and being connected to a plethora of mobile applications in the ubiquitous environment.

The N95 for example has features like a 5 megapixel camera, wide screen display with 16 million colors, GPS receiver for navigation, and a music player. The N93i sports a 3.2 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics with 3x optical zoom optimized for mobile video and film-making.

Airborne Access has more than 590 hotspots located all over the country. Nokia Nseries WiFi enabled Multimedia Computers are N80, N80IE, N91, N91 8GB, N92, N93, N93i, and N95.

GERMALIN ENTERPRISES AWARDED BY PAL DOMESTIC CARGO

Germalin Enterprises Inc is a recipient for four consecutive years of PAL Domestic Cargo's Diamond Award. Shown receiving the award are Geraldine F. Tanael and Ma. Editha C. Feliciano, flanked by PAL executives (from left): Mario C. Pangan, manager, domestic cargo sales; Enrique P. Javier, vice president, sales; Jaime J. Bautista, president and chief operating officer; Henry So Uy, EVP commercial group and executive assistant to the chair and CEO; Andrew Huang, SVP finance and chief financial officer; Emilio Yu, special assistant to the chair and CEO; and Edmundo de Luna, SAVP, cargo sales.

SM ADVANTAGE, AUTOHUB GROUP CONTRACT SIGNING

Engineer Willy Tee Ten, (second from left) president of the Autohub Group, and Baldwin Golangco, president of Marketing Convergence Inc, operators of the SM Advantage and SM Prestige loyalty programs recently signed a contract extending the value-added service and product offers of the Autohub Group to SM Advantage and SM Prestige cardholders. This exciting partnership allows cardholders to earn as much as 600 points with every transaction at any of the following Authohub branches: Ford Global City, Manila, Davao and Cagayan de Oro; Nissan Gallery Ortigas, Quezon Avenue and Cagayan de Oro; Hyundai Global City Hub at The Fort; Kama Trucks and Sinski Motorcycles in Otis, Manila; and Autozone

in Pasong Tamo, Makati. Also present were Christine Chua, (extreme left) Autohub VP for audit and Christy Schneck, SM Advantage AVP for promotions.

PLDT TO TRAIN WORKERS FOR NEW ZEALAND PLACEMENT

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT) and Transfield Services, recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for assessing and training local telecom workers for key positions in New Zealand. The MOA between PLDT and Transfield involves assessment of people fitting their requirements and training them on inside plant safety and health operations. New Zealand was impressed with Filipinos' skills as well as work attitude as its main reason for tapping local talents to man key telecom infrastructure in NZ. Photo shows: PLDT and Transfield executives and staffs during a recent signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the assessment and training of local TelCo talents for New Zealand jobs. Seated (from left): Emiliano Tanchico, 1st vice president, HRMD

PLDT; Ross Lockwood, Transfield executive GM, telecommunications group; Ricky Vargas, SVP, HR group PLDT; and Monica Leon, Transfield officer. Standing (from left): Rainer Leonardo, Tony Dela Cruz, Kay Ravanzo, Frank Romasanta, Grace Lapitan, Deng Kibanoff, Jun Manlapaz, Rolly Padaoan and Andy Real.

THE PREFERRED CHOICE OF MAKATI SHANGRI-LA AND AVIS

Always a popular choice amongst the world's most distinguished hotels and the most respectable car rental companies, Mercedes-Benz remains one of the most trusted car brands for its comfort, reliability, and the timeless prestige it exudes. For this reason, Makati Shangri-La Hotel and Avis were welcomed and honored by CATS Motors in a hand-over ceremony for the new Mercedes-Benz S-Class and E-Class fleet at the Makati Shangri-La on Oct. 2. Guests at the Makati Shangri-La are certainly in for a whole new hotel experience as they get chauffeured in the new Mercedes-Benz S-Class and E-Class limousines. Whether in need of round trip transfers from the hotel to the airport to take in the sights of the city, guests are assured of the luxurious Makati Shangri-La experience. For more information on CATS Motors' new luxury hotel fleet programme, please call 723-5808

or visit www.mercedes-benz.com.ph. Shown are: Jeremy Aniere (Shangri-La's resident manager), CATS Motors' president Felix Ang, Cynthia L. Picazo (Avis board of director) , CATS Motors' chair Gregorio Yu, Greg Dogan (Shangri-La VP/GM), and Avis' Reynaldo S. Guevara and Rafael V. Lucila Jr.

PUBLICATION OF GERMAN LANGUAGE PRIMER ON THE PHILIPPINE MINERALS INDUSTRY

Philippine mining experts, Philip Romualdez, president of Chamber of Mines of the Philippines; Horacio Ramos, Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and lawyer Leo Dominguez, partner, Quisumbing Torres were guest speakers at the launching of the German language version of the 'Primer on the Philippines Minerals Industry', last June 28 at the KfW-Ipex Bank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) in Frankfurt upon invitation of Philippine Ambassador to Germany Delia Domingo-Albert in her capacity as Vice-chair on the Minerals Development Council in cooperation with the KfW-Ipex Bank, a member of the KfW bank group and a major German player in the international project and export finance. Following the successful event, Ambassador Albert expressed the hope that this undertaking could be replicated in other German-speaking capitals which could utilize the primer on mining now

available in the German language. This is the first time that all relevant and updated information on the industry is available in the German language. The Primer is published by Quisumbing Torres, a member firm of Baker & McKenzie International. Shown (from left): Ambassador Albert, Holger Apel, Heinrich Heims, Horacio Ramos, Leo G. Dominguez and Philip Romualdez.

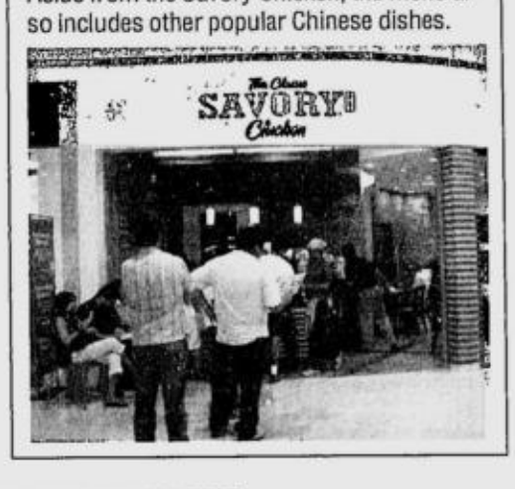
ProductFiles

MET Premium Whitening Soap

MET WHITENING Soap is a premium product manufactured in Japan under the strictest quality standards. The Japanese have long been known for their demands for skin perfection and radiance and they know Asian skin best. What better way to achieve lighter, smoother, fairer skin than with a premium whitening soap made by the skin whitening experts.

The Classic Savory Chicken now at SM Supercenter Pasig

THE CLASSIC SAVORY CHICKEN RECENTLY opened its second branch at the SM Supercenter in Pasig, right beside the main entrance. It also has a branch at the SM Mall of Asia and will soon be opening in key locations in Metro Manila. Introduced in 1950 by the Ting brothers, the Savory Chicken is known for its tasty, juicy and tender chicken. Aside from the Savory Chicken, the menu also includes other popular Chinese dishes.

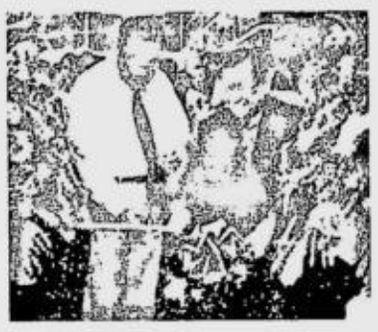


OKTOBERFEST 2007 KICKS OFF

The country's biggest beer event started with a bang last Sept. 28, at the Metrowalk, Ortigas, Pasig City. San Miguel Beer Oktoberfest, the Philippines' largest and longest-running beer festival once again takes center stage the whole month of October. Aside from Metrowalk, simultaneous opening ceremonies were held at Mepza football field in Cebu and the Victoria Plaza Mall at Davao City. Top rated musical artists performed such as Francis M., Rocksteddy, Urbandub, Hilera, The Dawn, Rivermaya, Sugarfree, Spongecola, and Itchyworms. Aside from the great entertainment, various activities and promos were held at the venue, including drinking contests and skills challenges. Hubs catering to a particular genre were scattered throughout where people can freely mix and mingle. A VIP lounge was also made available for drinkers who earned enough tokens from purchasing San Miguel Beer. Catch Oktoberfest weekend parties at Ilo-ilo City (Oct. 20), Tomas Morato Avenue (Oct. 19), Otis Mall, Butuan City (Oct. 20). Closing ceremonies on Oct. 26 will be held simultaneously at Mepza field in Cebu, Victoria Plaza Mall in Davao, and Metrowalk, Pasig.

SCHEELING'S NEW HOME

Scheeling Pharma Care Link Inc held its office blessing and ribbon cutting ceremonies recently. Stockholders, suppliers and Business Partners witnessed Scheeling's memorable occasion. Shown in photo is the ribbon cutting ceremony headed by Mario P. Chan, President of Scheeling (left) and Donnies Alas (right).



JUDY ANN SANTOS GOES FAMILIA

Familia Houseware Products, the leading brand in innovative houseware solutions, recently signed up Judy Ann Santos last Aug. 12 as their official endorser. Familia carries a complete range of houseware products like food keepers, water bottles, storage containers, dinnerware etc. which are safe to use and environmentally friendly. Familia products are available at all leading supermarkets and department stores nationwide. Photo shows (from left): Carole Santos, Sawasdee marketing president Raphael Chua, Judy Ann Santos and Sawasdee VP-marketing Annie Chua

Lakbay Kalusugan '07

THE UP ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TOURISM, IN COOPERATION with Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center (SLHMC), invites you to participate in Lakbay Kalusugan 2007, with the theme "Harnessing Medical Tourism Potential of the Countryside," to be held at the SLHMC Auditorium in Greenfield, Sta. Rosa, Laguna on Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. There will also be a three-day exhibit starting from Oct. 19 to 21. Prominent speakers and experts in the tourism and medical industry will give their lectures regarding medical tourism. Such speakers and experts will be from the Department of Tourism, Department of Health, the Hot Springs Association of Laguna, Spa Association of the Philippines, Gourmet's Café, the Zenis, and SLHMC. Companies like spas, HMOs, health tour operators, and healthy food brands will participate as exhibitors. Registration is now open! Registration fee includes lunch and AM/PM snack and a seminar kit. For more inquiries, contact Mia Mae Sy (Secretariat) at 0927-2296914 or Dhey Nanola (SLHMC) at 0917-5017054, call at (02)696-4705 or (02)922-3894 or visit the website at lakbay2007.@webpages.com.

PISM one-day confab in Cebu

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE FOR SUPPLY MANAGEMENT (PISM) will hold a one-day convention on Best Practices in Supply Management and New Customs Procedure: Lodgment of Entries Through Internet (CMO 19-2007) on Oct. 24 at the Marriott Hotel, Cardinal Rosales Ave., Cebu City. The one-day convention provides understanding on supply chain and its impact to business, effective procurement and how it can deliver savings to your company and the new customs procedures: lodgment of entries through Internet. Conference fees are P2,000 (member and early bird) and P2,500 (non-member). For registration and inquiries, contact Ann Punzalan-Saboya at 634-5955; 634-5942; 634-6632 or e-mail at anne@pism.org; secretariat@pism.org

ABTIS Clips

Acer donates PCs to Earthbag

ACER PHILIPPINES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ABAKADA FOUNdation, recently donated desktop computers to the Day-Asan National High School in Surigao City. The Day-Asan National High School is an implemented site of the Earthbag project. By utilizing Earthbag technology, classrooms are being built using materials that are readily available. The structures can be finished and used within 16 weeks or less with community members providing manpower. This translates to cheaper construction cost as compared to the conventional classroom. The project is the brainchild of multi-awarded social entrepreneur Illac Diaz. Acer believes in empowering the education sector through Computer Literacy and Information Communication Technology (ICT).

Expo to unveil new technologies in hair, makeup, beauty, wellness

MARKING OCTOBER AS HEALTH AND Wellness Tourism Month, a twin international expo in Manila will unveil new technologies in hair styling, makeup, and beauty and wellness.

The Beauty & Fitness World and Spa and Wellness Philippines 2007 will showcase all such "trade secrets" at the World Trade Center on Roxas Blvd from Oct. 25 to 27, according to event organizer World Expos and Concepts Inc (Worldexco).

"Hair expert Mitsunobu Kanauchi of Mu Carina of Japan will do a live demo on hair rebonding using its new technology that reduces the process from six to only two hours. This is a must-see for hairstylists and salon owners who want to maximize time and profits," said Worldexco marketing services manager Bogee Z. Romero.

"Moreover, the latest in makeup techniques will also emerge at the Making Faces Make-up Competition sponsored by Michiko Cosmetics. Michiko will also hold demo lectures on make-up and skin care," Romero pointed out.

The competition will be staged by the Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association of the Philippines (Hacap), which will also conduct a seminar on hair coloring.

Deadline for applications to the makeup competition is Oct. 19, according to Hacap (tel. nos. 731-4372, 742-8188).

Romero said another firm, Lifewave, would do a presentation on organic patches for appetite control.

"Lifewave's other patches are for pain, sleep problems, energy, and skin health. The speakers who will make the presentation will come from the US. Roy Sujorno and Dr. Peng Chan, who head Lifewave's Global Development and Globan Expansion divisions, will talk about how the patches use nano-technology," Romero added, citing such technologies as only a few of many others that would be unveiled during the expo's 3-day run.

The expo includes presentations on how to set up a spa business. Among the speakers are Dr. Mike and Cathy Turvill of Spa Professionals, MC Spa Essentials, and Nurture Spa.

On the other hand, the Tai Chi Union will hold a free 2-hour lecture demo on Tai Chi, its benefits, advantage in the work place, and as a stress reliever. Tai Chi master Chris Vogel will discuss and demonstrate Silk Reeling practice, Standing Meditation, and Tai Chi Push Hands. The public can register for free at Tai Chi Union Philippines.

There will also be hourly demos, product presentations, makeovers and other activities - from makeup to nail art, massage, health and food supplements, teeth whitening systems, spa treatments, and skin care technologies, among many others.

More information can be obtained from Worldexco (Worldexco tel: 632-8558341 to 44, fax 632-8558346, or email info@worldexco.com).

The Beauty & Fitness World is now on its 4th year, and the Spa & Wellness Philippines on its 2nd.

"Around 70 percent of our visitors last year were business owners and trade professionals searching for new products, services, and business opportunities, making our show the gateway to the Philippine beauty and wellness market," Romero stressed.

The expo is endorsed by the Department of Tourism and supported by the Spa Association of the Philippines, Hacap, and the George Caroll Studio Style Salon Products, USA as partners.

D.O.M.

7.XI.1921-11.X.2007

AMANDA ABAD SANTOS vda. de MADRIGAL

Anac yang bayani ning balen
Babaing marangal alang cupas
Dangal ne ning balen capampangan

Her loving husband, ***Don Antonio Madrigal+****; bereaved children* ***Ma. Susana*** *and* ***Jose Armando, Ma. Ana Consuelo*** *and* ***Eric, Ma. Rosa*** *and* ***Richard****; grandchildren* ***Alexandra, Michaela*** *and* ***Serena****; brothers and sisters* ***Jose Jr.+*** *and* ***Teresita, Lucita+*** *and* ***Angel+, Osmundo+, Victoria+*** *and* ***Jose+*** *and relatives, request friends and readers to join in prayer for her soul's eternal peace.*

The vigil will be held at LIWANAG 145 10TH Street, corner Doña Hemady Street, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Madrigal mausoleum, following the Requiem Mass at 10:30a.m. on Wednesday, 17 October 2007 at the mausoleum chapel, Madrigal Arts Center, Ayala Alabang.

"Goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life. I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for as long as I live."

GLORIA FRUEL CONSULTA

March 30, 1931 – October 12, 2007

Died peacefully in the grace of our Lord at the age of 76.

Her husband, **EZEQUIEL** (†), children **GABBY & TENH, NARDY & LEA, LULU & HARRY, CHARITO, RICKY & SHARI, ALBERT & MAITA, CELIA & SANDS**, sisters **LADITA, MILAGROS, JOSEFINA, TERESING**, brothers **HONESTO** (†) and **CELSO** (†), and grandchildren, request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria della Strada Parish Church, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 16, Tuesday at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8 am Mass at Sta. Maria della Strada.

REV. FR. JOHN MICHAEL MAGUIRE, C.Ss.R.

Died in the Grace of Our Lord on the 11th of October, 2007 at the age of 74.

Lies in state at the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran, Parañaque City.

The Funeral Mass will be on October 16, 2007, Tuesday at 9:00 AM.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

ATTY. REYNALDO N. ELARMO

peacefully joined our Lord on October 12, 2007 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Julita**; children **Ned, Erick, Grace** and **Richelle**; son-in-law **Jun**; daughters-in-law **Alva** and **Lennie**; brothers **Ben** and **Romeo** (†); sisters **Luming, Linda, Rose, Baby** and **Nene** and other relatives mourn his passing and wish him eternal peace.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2007 after the 2:00 p.m. mass.

"And ... I will dwell in the House of the Lord ... forever."

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

SMALL BUSINESS GUARANTEE AND CORPORATION
17th Floor 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

INVITATION TO BID

The following properties are offered for sale thru Public Bidding on October 30, 2007

Asset Code	Lot Size (sqm)	TCT No.	Description/location	Minimum bid price
Real Properties				
1. MMMA	1,997	421862	Agricultural land located at Bo. Anupul, Bambam, Tarlac	758,000.00
2. SRRC - 1	2,299	T-5745	Agricultural land located at Bo. Namnama, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao	527,440.00
SRRC - 2	5,000	ARP # 1999-088003-00687	Agricultural land located at Bo. Banglgue, Kiangan, Ifugao	25,000.00
3. A.S CAD	375	T-24649	Industrial Furniture Shop located at Narra St., Poblacion Norte, Madella, Quirino	131,250.00
4. DECO	1,500	419173	Agro-Industrial land located at Maliwao-R8, Zone 5, Maliwalo Tarlac, Tarlac	2,969,080.00
5. JVFK	705	306027	Residential lot located at Bo. Sapang, Manaoag, Pangasinan	423,000.00
6. SRND	15,130	T-138939	Residential house located along Bo. Bawi, Padre Garcia, Batangas City	3,046,120.00
Personal Properties				
Type of Equipment				
7. (1) unit Multi-Tech Piping Machine			Model No. MT-3503 Serial No. 945085. Complete with Clutch Motor, working table and other standard accessories.	14,000.00
8. "Kingtex" Cylinder Bed Type Hemming Machine			Model No. CTL-6511and Serial No. 2031429. Complete with Clutch Motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic" Made in Korea.	46,000.00
9. Five (5) units "Kingtex" High Speed Machine Single needle complete with clutch motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic." Made in Korea			Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987257 Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987407 Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987411 Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987564 Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987271	8,000.00 8,000.00 8,000.00 8,000.00 8,000.00
10. Four Units "Kingtex Computerized High Speed Machines Single needle complete with clutch motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic" Made in Korea			Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2019041 Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2027578 Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2026850 Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2026841 All sewing machines are located at SBGFC warehouse in Cubao, Quezon City.	13,000.00 13,000.00 13,000.00 13,000.00
11. 7 units Split Type-Trane aircon			SBGFC warehouse in Cubao, Quezon City	56,000.00
12. High Book Shelf			-do-	400.00
13. 3 units White Board (with frame)			-do-	1,560.00
14. 11 units double Computer Tables 6 units single Computer Tables			-do- -do-	8,800.00 2,400.00
15. One (1) unit Clerical Chairs with arms Two (2) units without arms One (1) unit screw type			-do-	300.00 400.00 150.00
16. Nine (9) units double Computer Table			Warehouse in Taguig City	7,200.00
17. 2 units Customized Table			SBGFC warehouse in Dasmariñas, Cavite	800.00
18. One Unit Overhead Projector			17th Floor SB Corp. office in Makati City	2,550.00
19. One unit Mitsubishi L300			Plate No. TBD-619, Type HSPUR W/ analoc, Motor No. 4D 6DU-4525, Chassis No.L039PYZ-03395 located in Cauayan, Isabela	45,000.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Description of the above properties, bidding rules and regulations and the prescribed bid forms are available at the 17th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Contact Atty. Jessie Reotutar, Santiago C. Tuliao and Willie Silo at tel no. (02) 813-5721/(02) 751 1888.
2. Sealed bid forms together with the 10% bid bond will be received by SBGFC-ADC Secretariat from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on October 30, 2007. Other bids beyond the said time shall no longer be accepted.
3. Each bids proposal shall be accompanied by a Manager's Check issued in Metro Manila payable to the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC) in the amount equivalent to 10% of the bid. Please accomplish one (1) bid form for every property.
4. In case of CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS (defined as other bid submitted within the range of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an OPEN BIDDING in which all bidders whose bids within 85% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P5,000.00.
5. Properties will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from SBGFC. Bidders are enjoyed to personally inspect/investigate/verify actual site and status of documents of ownership with the appropriate Register of Deeds before formally submitting their bids to ascertain their actual condition.
6. All sales shall be subject to confirmation by the SBGFC Credit Committee.
7. If for any reason the bidding date is declared as non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at same time and place abovementioned.

SBGFC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, ACCEPT SUCH BID AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COMPANY OR CALL OFF A BIDDING PRIOR TO ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE BIDS AND CALL FOR A NEW BID UNDER AMENDED RULES. THE DECISION OF SBGFC IS FINAL AND BINDING.

(SGD.) **FE DOLORES GATUS**
Chairman-ADC

(PDI--Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

LAMP 2 is funded with grant aid for Technical Assistance from the Australian Government and World Bank loan to the Philippines Government. The Technical Assistance Team needs

ISF Communications and Training Officer

- Must have been engaged in communications and training work over the last 5 years;
- Has extensive experience in developing and production of various information and communication materials, e.g. print, video and audio;
- Must have good communication skills, knowledgeable in Word Processing and Power Point presentations; hands-on knowledge in the production of audio-video materials is an asset;
- Graduate of any social science or communications-related course from a reputable education institution;
- Must be comfortable in dealing with LGUs, NGOs, sector organizations and national government agencies;
- Must have very good writing and editing skills; background in research is an asset;
- Must be a team player but also a self-starter and willing to work in the field.

Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to www.landequity.com.au, for detailed information about the company and to www.phil-lamp.org for the project information.

LAND

Applicants may email their CV with cover letter and at least 2 references to palamp1@mindgate.net, j3smb@yahoo.com, or fax to 9281176. The full Terms of Reference are available upon request. **Deadline for Submission: 5:00 p.m., Friday, 19 October 2007.**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

Join the nation as it commemorates our dearly departed with

Memories
A special pullout section for the Eternal Care Industry

An 8-page, full color, tabloid-sized supplement published for All Saints' Day. The perfect medium for funeral parlor, columbariums, insurance companies, memorial parks and other eternal care-related products and services.

It will be published on October 28, 2007 and will be distributed with the Inquirer. Free copies will also be given to select memorial parks, funeral parlor, columbariums, on November 1, 2007.

ACCEPTABLE AD MATERIAL
TIF Format / 300 Pixels Per Inch (resolution) / CMYK Mode
DEADLINE: October 19, 2007

IN THIS SEASON OF MEMORIES, BE REMEMBERED.
Book your ads now! Call Aileen Garcia or Dhel Mendoza at 912-9008 to 11 / 421-1420 / 421-0343

ANNOUNCEMENT
to our valued advertisers

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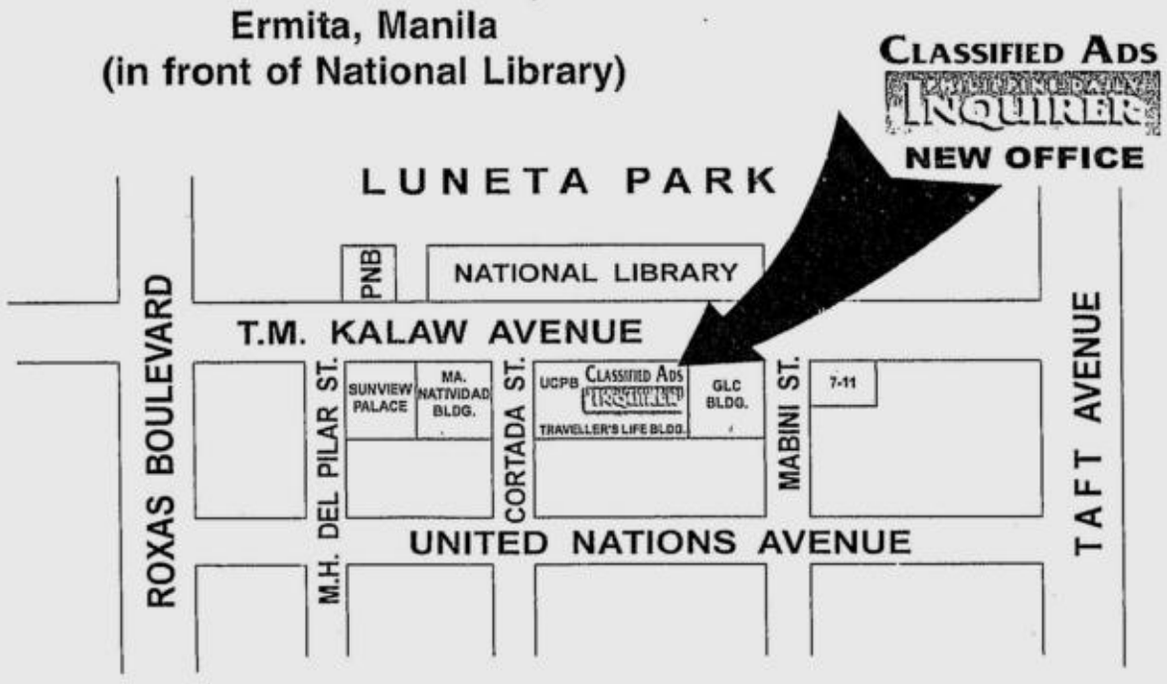
has been transferred to:

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg.,
490 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila
(in front of National Library)



To serve your advertising needs, please call

523-5570 (Trunk Line)
loc. 115 or 116
525-7023 (Classified)

Dogs and owners dress alike for Halloween Trick or Treat

DOGS AND OWNERS will compete for cash and prizes in a unique Halloween celebration at the Quezon Memorial Circle entitled "Dog-and-Owner Lukalike Halloween Costume Contest" on Oct.27. This will be followed by a "Trick or Treat" where the Lukalike entries and children dressed in Halloween costume up to age 12 may knock at any of the park concessionaires to ask for treats.

The dog and owner costume contest will start at 4:00 pm at the ASOco (Asong Sanay sa Obstacle Course) Agility Dog School where the contest participants will be judged according to creativity, innovativeness, and crowd appeal. All dog owners with their dogs are qualified to join here where prizes at stake are cash and pet products.

After the costume contest, the "Trick or Treat" at the Circle follows where children up to age 12 and dressed in Halloween costumes may visit any of the concessionaires throughout the park to ask for Halloween treats. A prize awaits the most attractive costume get-up.

The public is invited. The Quezon Memorial Circle requires all dogs participating in the Halloween event to have updated rabies injection as a safety measure to the public. The Circle also enforces a policy for all dog walkers to carry plastic bags with them to clean up after their pets and to keep their dogs leashed at all times when in a public place.

For inquiries you may call Betty or Sally at 496-5090 at the ASOco Agility Dog School.

Case No. CV 0707098
Dept. No. II

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHITE PINE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AS TO

CHARLOTTE MACARANAS
Minor child.

NOTICE

TO: TEOTIMO DIZON, father of the above-named minor; and to all persons claiming to be the father of this minor;

You are hereby notified that there has been filed in the above-entitled court a petition praying for the termination of parental rights over the above-named minor person, and that the petition has been set for hearing before this Court, at the courtroom thereof, in the County of White Pine, State of Nevada, on the 26th day of November, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., at which time and place you are required to be present if you desire to oppose the petition.

DATED this 13 day of September, 2007.

DONNA M. BATH
CLERK OF COURT

By: Pat Campbell
Deputy Clerk

(PDI – October 14 & 21, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PHILIPPINE FOREST CORPORATION
Old NAMRIA Bldg., Lawton Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The PHILIPPINE FOREST CORPORATION (Phil Forest), a government-owned and controlled corporation with office address at Old NAMRIA Building, Lawton Avenue, Fort Bonifacio invites all interested bidders to develop public idle lands to Jatropha curcas plantation under its ***"Lupang Hinirang Program,"*** to submit their Letter of Intent, register for eligibility and to bid for the lease of public lands, as follow:
2. Detail of Available hectares of lands for Jatropha plantation development.

REGION	Province	City	Barangay	Areas (Total No. of Hectares)
IV-A, CALABARZON	Rizal	Antipolo	San Jose	500 hectares

3. The Approved Floor Price for the Contract is P500.00 per hectare per year.
4. The Instructions to Lease Applicants and related documents shall be available at the Phil Forest Auction and Awards Committee (AAC) Secretariat starting October 22, 2007, Monday until October 26, 2007, Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 or its equivalent in US Dollars for family. A Family Package is between 1 to 10 hectare development sizes and eligible applicants are individuals and farmers. Details may be inquired from the Phil Forest AAC Secretariat thru telephone Nos. 889-3573 and 889-4087.

The Phil Forest Auction and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any required formality therein or to accept such offers as may be considered most advantageous to the Corporation.

(Sgd.) RODOLFO NOEL I. LOZADA, JR.
President / CEO

(PDI – October 14, 2007) *"We Restore Life Back to our Forests"*

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

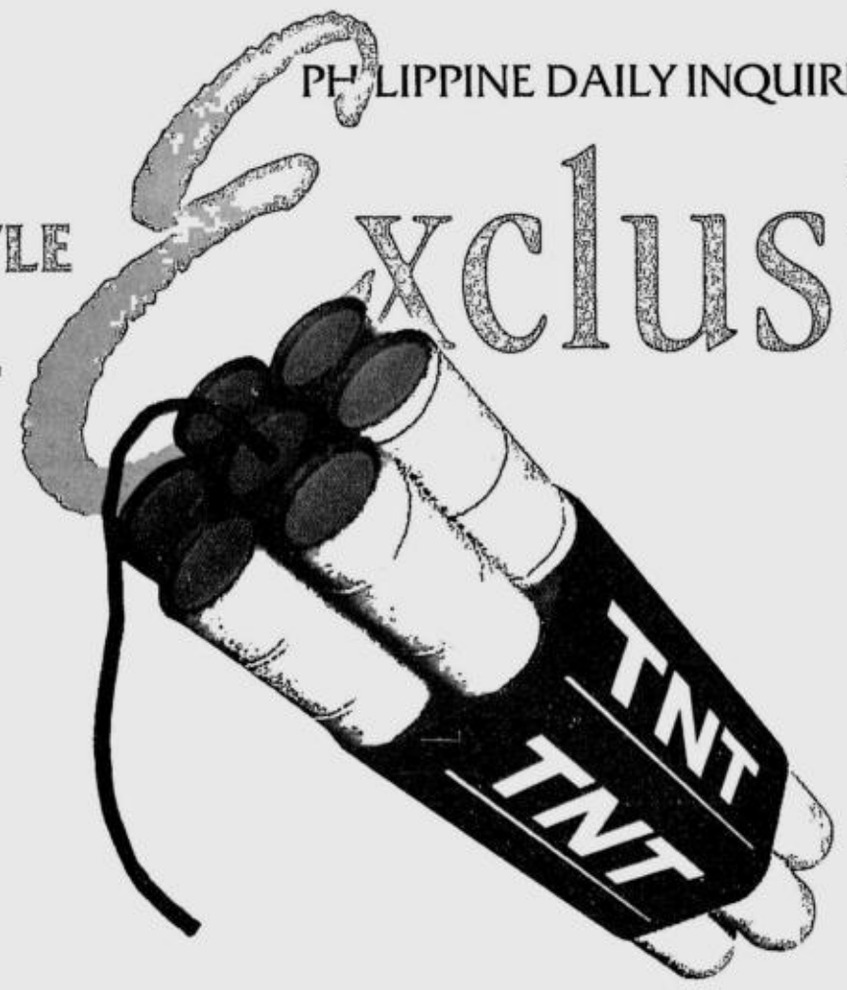
(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

Sunday LIFESTYLE

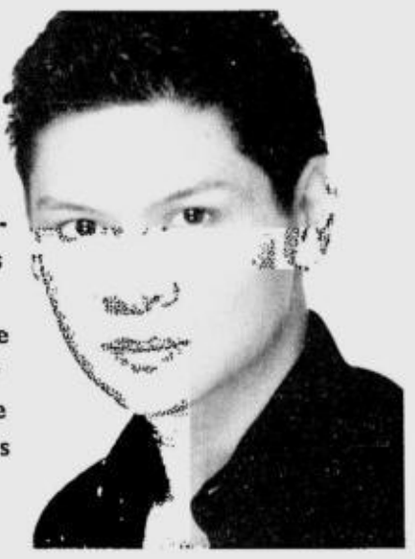
Exclusives

Editorial Director **Cheche V. Moral**

What's HOT and what to WATCH OUT for



Guest Editor Anton San Diego



Anton San Diego is the editor of Philippine Tatler. He was a columnist of INQUIRER LIFESTYLE from 1998 until recently. In this ever-changing world, his hope is to always be optimistic and to never feel jaded, to get to travel more, to always see the bigger picture and to take the higher road, to sing like Josh Groban and to have at least a month-long vacation, and for his dad to win his fight with the Big C.

By Anton San Diego

IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I have written under the TNT column. I must admit I miss writing a weekly column and it's good to be back in this issue!

The TNT column started in 2002 and took a hiatus. For this installment, we give you a hodgepodge of the latest, newest trends from design, gadgets, movies, music, TV and others.

Openings. The opening of Greenbelt 5 is probably the most-awaited event for the latter part of the year. There are two phases of development. Phase 1 houses international luxury brands and a Filipino zone (the best of Filipino fashion, lifestyle and design). Phase 2 will have an international department store, a young and family zone, specialty shops for fathers, and a spa and fitness gym that will take all of the fourth floor.

Of course, there will be restaurants and lots to choose from. Even now the buzz is, Eman Pineda of Tyler boutique is opening a one-of-a-kind store that's world-class and even has former Wallpaper founder/editor Tyler Brule as a consultant.

Restaurants. The current hottest restaurants in town are Sala and Mamou. Sala, which moved from Malate (I hope Mayor Lim can revive this last bastion of Bohemian Filipino life) is chef-proprietor Colin McKay's masterpiece and crowning glory. The restaurant has been consistently good, has impeccable service and its new interiors take you from predictability to simple yet world-class feel. Over at Serendra, Malou Fores' first foray into the restaurant business is an instant blockbuster. Her home cooking has introduced Filipinos to a new world of tastes and flavors. These two restaurants are more than worth checking out.

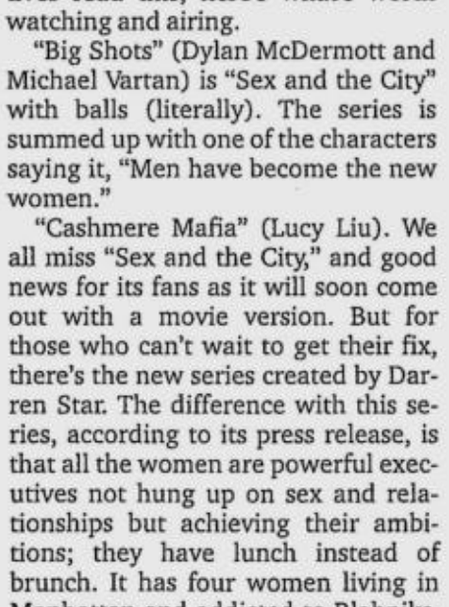
TV. Autumn season has started in the US and most of your favorite series have just aired their first episodes. If you are looking to add to your list of shows or if some wise network executives read this, here's what's worth watching and airing.

"Big Shots" (Dylan McDermott and Michael Vartan) is "Sex and the City" with balls (literally). The series is summed up with one of the characters saying it, "Men have become the new women."

"Cashmere Mafia" (Lucy Liu). We all miss "Sex and the City," and good news for its fans as it will soon come out with a movie version. But for those who can't wait to get their fix, there's the new series created by Darren Star. The difference with this series, according to its press release, is that all the women are powerful executives not hung up on sex and relationships but achieving their ambitions; they have lunch instead of brunch. It has four women living in Manhattan and addicted to Blahniks. Hey... wait a minute!

"Dirty, Sexy Money" (Donald

WHAT'S/ 4



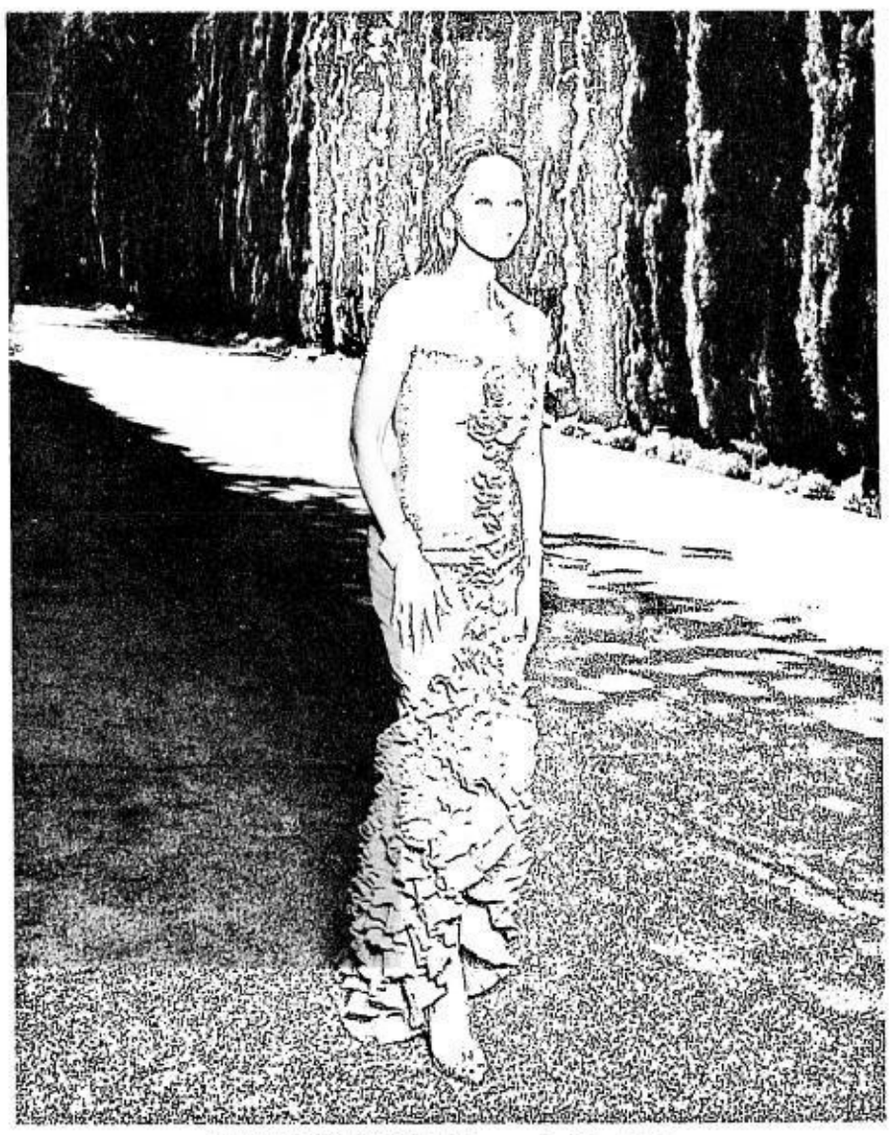
MOST-AWAITED movie: "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"

The tradition of luxury lives on...

Rustan's
SINCE 1952

ROSE-PINK top by Inno Sotto and pants by Giorgio Armani. Photographed by Raymund Isaac in Isabel Preysler's home in Madrid, Spain

Isabel Preysler
Queen of GLAMOUR



FLAMENCO-INSPIRED gown by Marta Rota

By Bambina Wise
Contributor

BEST-DRESSED. MOST glamorous. Most elegant. Most beautiful. Superlatives, it seems, are the norm when describing Isabel Preysler.

"La Reina del Glamour," as the Spanish press has dubbed her, continues to fascinate celebrity watchers in Europe, and everywhere.

Her face is ageless. She has the sophistication that women *d'un certain age* possess—women who are confident of their beauty, sure of their style and comfortable in their allure. Her body is in enviable shape, especially after having five children—Chabeli, Julio Jr. and Enrique, from her first husband, Julio Iglesias; Tamara, her daughter from her marriage to Carlos Falco, the Marques de Griñon; and Ana, her daughter with current husband, Miguel Boyer.

Britney Spears, a good 30 years younger than La Preysler, should be tearing her hair extensions out in envy!

Born in Manila in 1951 to Betty Arrastia and Carlos Preysler, Isabel was the third in a family of six children. Like many prominent mestizo families, she grew up in comfortable affluence, attending the Assumption Convent. At 18, she was sent to Madrid with an aunt and uncle, Tessie and Miguel Perez-Rubio, to study at Mary Ward University.

Julio Iglesias was not the heartthrob crooner he is today when he and Isabel met in 1970 at a party hosted by the de Terry family in Madrid. The one-time promising soccer star had spent years recuperating from a horrific car accident that left him partially paralyzed and unable to walk. While convalescing, a friend had given him a guitar, and the budding singer began setting his own poems to music.

By the time the couple married in 1971, Julio had recorded a few songs, won a national singing contest and appeared in a movie. Isabel was a model.

Theirs was a marriage that united astounding good looks, upper-middle-class pedigrees, and exotic glamour—the press often called her "La Perla de Manila." Overnight, they became media celebrities, the '70s equivalent of Brangelina, feted throughout Spain and Latin America, where Julio's records became instant hits.

The golden couple's happiness, however, did not last. In 1978, they separated after seven years of marriage, and three children. Julio's career took him away from home a lot, and his hectic schedule, plus rumors of infidelities while on the road, took their toll on the marriage.

Her next marriage, to Carlos Falco, was also short-lived, but catapulted her to a different league in European society. At the very least, it made her a *marquesa*, and the chatelaine of an acclaimed wine estate in the Rioja region of Spain. The Marques de Griñon's family is firmly anchored in Spanish aristocracy, and traces its roots all the way back to William the Conqueror.

Their daughter, Tamara, was born in 1981, but the marriage ended not long after. Isabel met then Spanish Minister of Finance Miguel Boyer. At first, rumors of the relationship were hush-hush, but by 1985, she and Carlos Falco separated, Boyer separated from his wife, and he and Isabel moved in together. In 1989, her third daughter, Ana, was born.

Isabel's first two weddings were grand affairs, the first in a church in Illescas, followed by a honeymoon in the Gran Canarias, and the second in a Finca in Toledo owned by Carlos Falco. By contrast, her third wedding was a small, intimate ceremony attended by family and close friends.

Third time lucky, perhaps, as 20 years later, she and Miguel Boyer are still together, still in love and still happy.

According to ¡Hola! magazine, Isabel Preysler, *no se considera guapa ni inteligente. Tampoco tonta, ambiciosa o calculadora. Se define a sí misma como un ama de casa, devota de sus hijos, a la que la pasión y el azar ha colocado en el centro del huracán. Tímida y prudente, ha sabido sobrellevar con paciencia y educación la constante persecución de los medios.*

In other words, Isabel Preysler, the celebrated beauty, considers herself neither beautiful nor intelligent. Nor is she stupid, ambitious or calculating.

She defines herself first and foremost as a homemaker, devoted to her children, even as passion and chance have frequently put her at the center of the storm. Shy and prudent, she has learned to overcome with patience and grace the constant barrage of the media.

> The first wife of Julio Iglesias and the mother of Enrique Iglesias, 'La Perla de Manila' is the toast of European society for her beauty and unerring sense of style

Isabel Preysler on style:

My style, I believe, is not sophisticated as I try to be as natural as possible. It's *menos es mas*. Less is more. When I have to choose jewelry, I usually do not choose jewelry that's very elaborate.

On being Filipino and feeling Spanish:

Nationality, I have Spanish nationality because when I got married, I can only have one. I can get my Filipino nationality now because now you're allowed to. When I got married in the '70s, I could only have one. I don't ever feel like I have to choose, I feel 100-percent Filipino and then I can feel 100-percent Spanish. I feel very lucky to have grown up in the Philippines. We all speak in Spanish. My father was Spanish, my grandmother was Spanish. I always had that mixed combination. Of course when I was in the Philippines, I felt much, much more Filipino, definitely. I didn't feel Spanish at all. I only realized that I'm *Español* when I got in Spain.

On the men she has loved:

My wishes and feelings toward them are very positive. Julio, his father died last December and I went to visit him; he really appreciated it.

They are all great friends of mine. He kept repeating to me, "My father loved you." I said, "That's why I'm here."

With Carlos, I had a wonderful relationship. He was a gentleman and he comes to pick up Tamara. Now, he's married again and he has a son and a daughter and they're very, very cute. I have them here at home sometimes.

My relationships with them, I've never given it a second thought because they've always been perfect gentlemen. They made it easy for me. And even if they did not make it easy for me, I'm sure I would still have exerted efforts because it's very, very important if you have children.

On her husband, Miguel Boyer:

I've been married to him for 20 years on Jan. 2. Ana just turned 18 in April. Miguel is an extremely intelligent man, a charmer, has a good sense of humor, and very quick. We're completely different but we complement each other.

On her children:

My kids all want to come home. They all come home for Christmas. They really enjoy it. When Enrique leaves, for example, he'd tell me, "Mom, being home is like being in heaven." For me, that line makes me so grateful. They call this home. They have their own rooms here.

Ana, she's very good in Mathematics; she's never given me a single problem. She's a very good kid. She's an excellent student.

Tamara stays here, too. Chabeli is married and she comes home for Christmas. She's in LA because her husband works in LA. Julio's living here now He's been living here since last Christmas, but before he lived on his own. All my kids are welcome here.

I'm really lucky that all my kids love each other. I feel very, very blessed to have them because we know that it's hard to have five children who grew up well and who love each other. They tell me that it's easier when it's from a mother; it's easier to be close to each other.

Enrique, in his interviews, when they ask him about his stepsisters, he'll answer, "Stepsister? My goodness, they're my sisters."

On the media:

I've had a really, really bad time with the media. Especially during the bad moments like the divorce, it was really, really difficult. I have lots of things to be grateful for. If I were to be able to choose, I would've never let them take a single picture. If you haven't been up to this point, by the media, it's very difficult to understand.

There are many, many things that I would've loved to do which I don't do. That's the price I have to pay. I don't go to the supermarket, to the boat trips that I have to go to because we're going to be photographed and the other people will be bothered by the paparazzi.

You have to give up a lot of things for the good things they offer. I'm also lucky because everybody wants to be loved. I feel that when I get some fan mail. You have to live for a few things because there are a lot of people who love you, who admire you.

On her greatest achievement:

My children. They are not my achievements because of their achievements but they are something I'm very proud of. They've done a lot on their own and it's good when they say it happened because of how good they were raised.

They've seen that Julio is a very hardworking man. You have to struggle to get something. All my children know that they are very privileged but if you ever meet them, they are not at all spoiled kids. Not at all. They are very normal children. They always have the things that could not be bought.

Inno Sotto's ALHAMBRA

The premier fashion designer teams up with Bea Valdes for his 26th gala show inspired by Granada's famous Moorish palace

BLACK crepe de Chine gown with blouson bodice and quarter-length sleeves

By Chit Lijauco
Contributor

A MASTER OF PHILIPpine fashion, Inno Sotto holds an annual show, has an A-list clientele that's still growing, and is covered in a shroud of mystery that makes him larger than life.

Embarking on his 26th gala fashion show, Sotto is showing more excitement than ever. For this show he has not only placed his creative juices but also his soul on adrenalin drive.

With the loss of his partner Richard Tann, it seemed it would be difficult for Sotto to get back on his feet. In an interview with the Philippine Tatler, he said, "In the last two years, I've had to wear two hats, Richard's and mine. It doubled the things I have to attend to. But it has also opened my eyes. I learned things about myself—that I can also do things I couldn't do before."

Sotto said that with the support of friends and family, he was able to survive the grief, the loss and the painful adjustment.

This time he teams up with international bag and jewelry designer Bea Valdes, who has now added "mother" to her many hats. Valdes will provide her own arty Byzantine touch to Sotto's fashion extravaganza.

Sotto's inspiration in this collection is Alhambra, which literally translates into "red" in the Arabic language. The images it conjured and the senses it stirred up provided the peg for Sotto's artistic creations.

The designer, known and admired for his signature long tresses, said he has always been awed by the fact that this (Moorish) culture invaded Spain, thrived and survived the centuries in Alhambra without changing the rest of Spanish culture and tradition around it. "For this collection, I was inspired by the contrast of this place that was influenced by this foreign culture," he said.

Alhambra, a Moorish palace and fortress, sits on the picturesque hills, southeast of the city of Granada in the southern part of Spain. Formerly the residence of Muslim kings, it is now a major tourist spot, valued for its exquisite Islamic architecture.

With such influences playing on the designer's mind, expect to imbibe the lavishness of a rich European culture dotted by Mid-Eastern ethnicity. Prepare to be heady with a show of exquisite workmanship in a modern arabesque-themed production.

To be held at the Makati Shangri-La ballroom Oct. 29, the show, which is yet untitled ("It might just be my name," Sotto said), will showcase 50 creations divided into three suites— daywear, cocktails and eveningwear.

For the show, Sotto will use 30 models, half of whom have been undergoing a training workshop under Ariel Lozada every Sunday for almost two months at the Steps studio of Sofia Elizalde.

"Every time I have a show, I make sure I train young models," Sotto said.

For the hair and makeup, he will rely on good friend and top stylist Patrick Rosas. Hairpieces will come from Bergmann's.

Chit Lijauco, managing editor of Philippine Tatler, has known of Inno Sotto since her college days through the designer's sister. In the lifestyle beat for more than 20 years, she has followed with great interest the career of the "Prince of Philippine fashion."

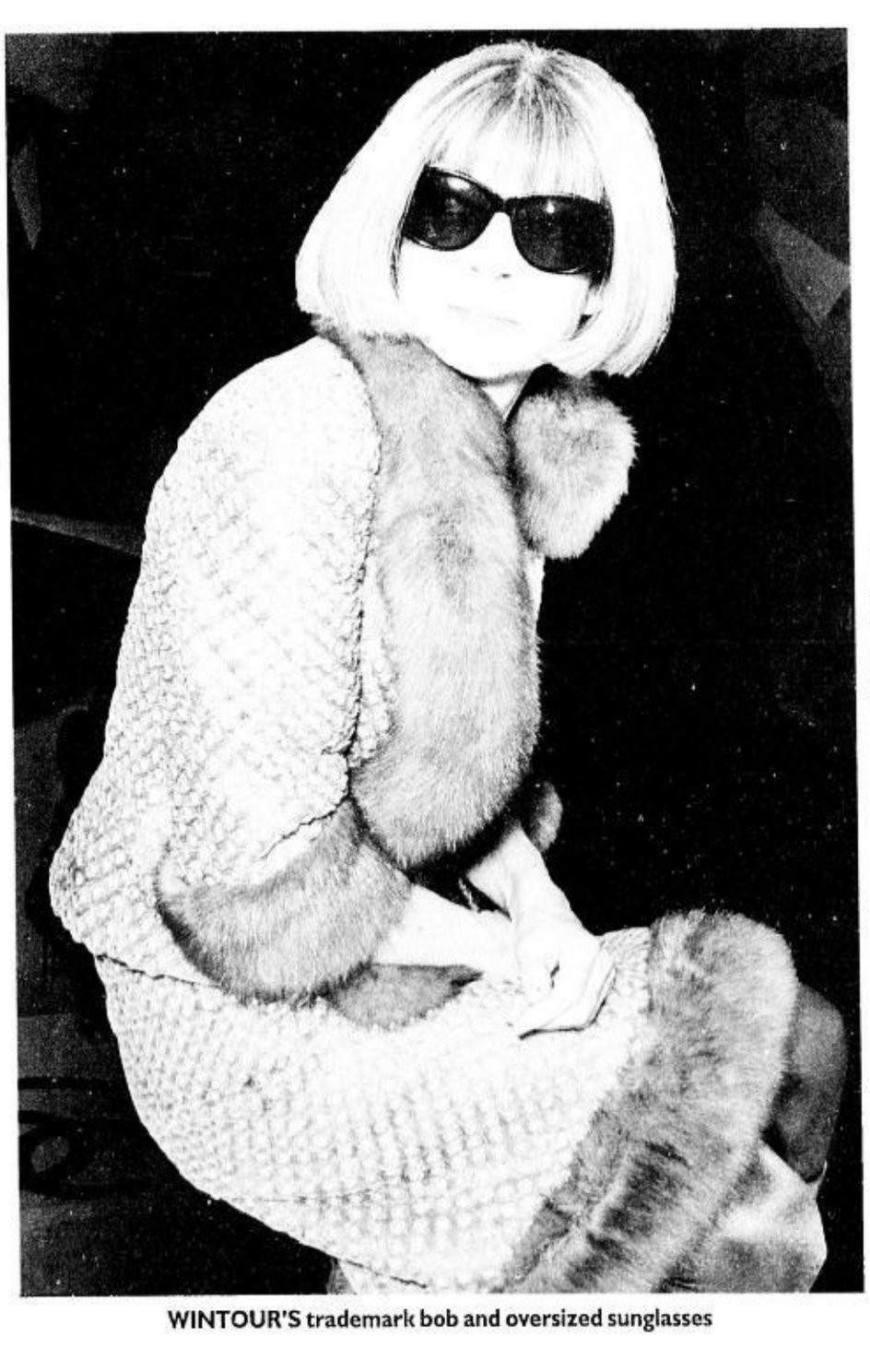
FEATHERED top with black jersey skirt

PHOTOS: DARREN TIESTE (WWW.DARRENTIESTE.COM)
HAIR AND MAKEUP: PATRICK ROSAS

THE TWO ANNAS: A contrast in styles

Anna VS Anna

The front-row dress-up battle of two high-fashion editorial divas, classy Anna Wintour of American Vogue and Italian eccentric Anna Piaggi



WINTOUR'S trademark bob and oversized sunglasses

A FRONT-ROW SEAT IS the hottest ticket during fashion week. Everybody looks at the famous celebs seated front and center in full view of the entire audience, prime targets for the world's paparazzi.

The pressure to look great is more than intense. That pressure is even greater if you're a world-class fashion editor.

Two of the most important and influential editrixes in the world share the same first name: Anna. But the similarity ends there as they are light years apart when it comes to their fashion styles.

Anna Wintour, she of American Vogue and the inspiration for "The Devil Wears Prada," is always turned out in the crème de la crème of designer fashion.

Wintour plays the field. In classic and timeless Oscar de la Renta in one outing to something more contemporary from her discoveries at the next event, and never without her Manolos. She is always immaculately turned out with her dark glasses and never ever so much as a single hair out of place on her signature helmet bob.

Anna Piaggi of Italian Vogue fame and the wild child of fashion is exactly the opposite. Everything's out of place, intentionally. She aims to surprise, and does she ever! She may be wearing designer duds (and usually is) but she turns them into fancy dress costumes. Her makeup is bizarre.

Piaggi's hair is a puff of curls, sometimes dyed a strange shade of blue. This Anna seems more circus than chic and once served as muse to Karl Lagerfeld until their falling out.

Anna Wintour versus Anna Piaggi. No contest and no winner either. Fashion today allows for a free-wheeling approach to self-expression and personal styles. Both Annas have honed their highly individual style to absolute, attention-getting perfection.

Front-row fabulous... Anna and Anna!

This article is being reprinted with permission from Doneger Group.

PIAGGI in trademark over-the-top style

What's HOT

From page I

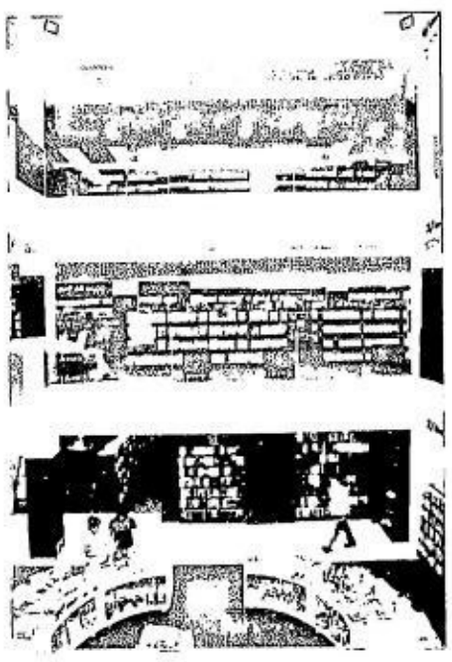
Sutherland, Peter Krause) combines the deviousness, greed and ambition of "Dallas" and "Dynasty"—long live the '80s! It is set in Manhattan. Peter Krause's character Nick is a lawyer who has to work extra hard to keep the family name untarnished.

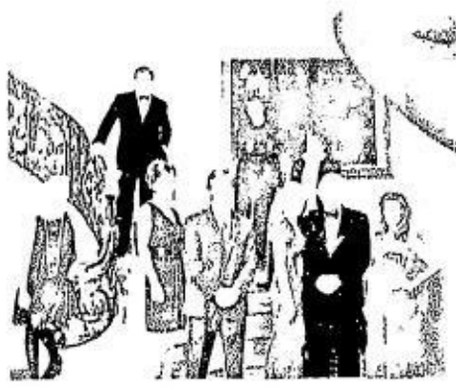
Movies. Not to be missed is another take on Elizabeth played again by the incomparable Cate Blanchett, "Elizabeth: The Golden Age." Here's a dialogue from the movie:

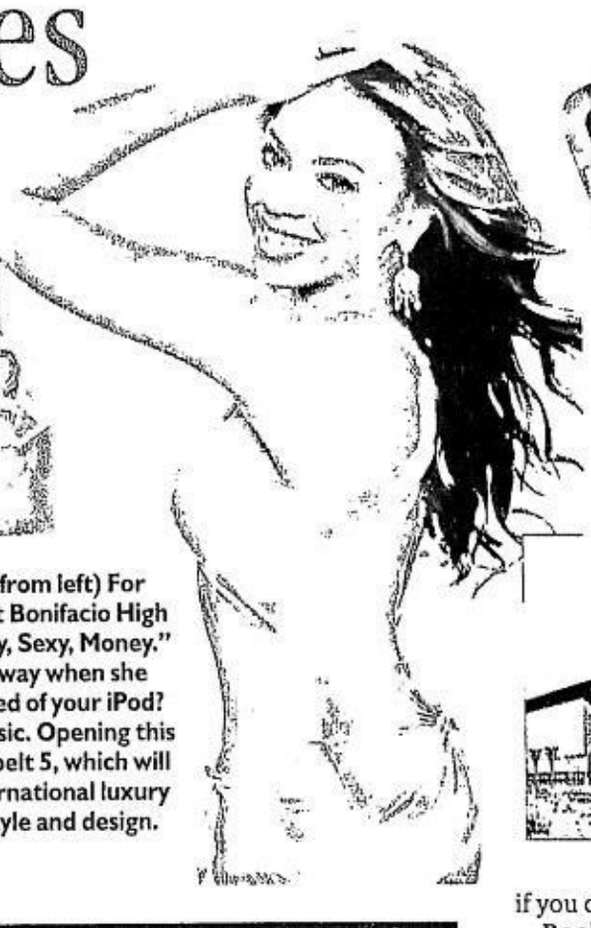
Queen Elizabeth I: Tell your king I fear neither him nor his armies.

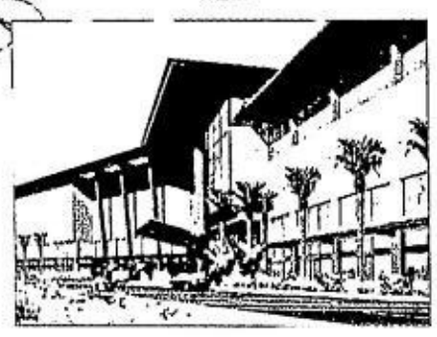
Spanish Minister: There is a wind coming that will sweep away your pride.

Queen Elizabeth I: I, too, can command the wind, sir! And I have a hurricane in me that will strip Spain bare if you dare to try me!









TNT'S TOP PICKS. (Clockwise from left) For bookworms, go to Fully Booked at Bonifacio High Street, the Fort. The cast of "Dirty, Sexy, Money." Beyoncé will take your breath away when she performs in Manila on Nov. 7. Tired of your iPod? Switch to Nokia's 5310 XpressMusic. Opening this month, the much-awaited Greenbelt 5, which will have, side by side, the best of international luxury brands and Filipino fashion, lifestyle and design.

Books. Here are our top choices: International fashion designer Josie Natori launches a coffee-table book, "The Art of Natori." Nina Garcia of Elle magazine and "Project Runway" writes her first book, "The Little Black Book of Style," with beautiful and whimsical illustrations by Ruben Toledo. "Leaving Microsoft to Change the World" (John Wood) is an inspiring account of how a man left a high-paying job to help educate children. And the one place you can go and buy all these books is the five-level Fully Booked on Bonifacio High Street, The Fort. Owner Jaime Daez deserves a lot of accolades for this one.

Music. They say that the music you listen to will always signify your age. In the '80s I listened to 99.5 RT, then as I got older, moved to 94.7 ("The Mellow Touch"), but sometimes their songs were too sappy so I moved to 92.3 (Joey). Well, the last has changed owners and now it plays lounge and chill-out music, which is fine at certain times of the day. But I miss the old Joey with Francis Lumen at the helm. I hope someone can bring that back.

There is only one album I am looking forward to and that's Annie Lennox's "Songs Of Mass Destruction." On the concert scene, I am sure everyone is still reeling from the Josh Groban concert. Now head on to Ticketnet as the beautiful and soulful Beyoncé is set to take Manila by storm on Nov. 7.

Mobile phone. If you are looking for a new phone, try the Nokia 5310 XpressMusic, a music phone with crystal-clear hi-fi audio capabilities, with a free 1GB microSD memory card and can expand to 4GB of storage, or the Nokia 6500 Classic, which has a slim, high-gloss contemporary look. Perfect for you, posers, out there. Both phones should be in stores by end-October.

Hotspots. Martini Bar at the Mandarin, Warehouse 135, Alchemy and Fiamma are some of the hottest bars in the city. But nothing beats Embassy and Nuvo—they are the ultimate in nightspots and have not lost their stronghold.

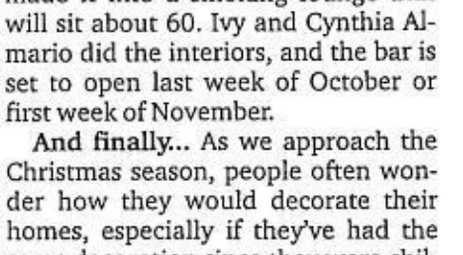
Embassy is expanding and has taken over the former MTV office. It is extending its empire over the Fort. The team of Tim Yap and Eric Cua has opened a boutique hotel in Boracay as well.

Over at Nuvo, my bar of choice, it has renovated the second floor and made it into a smoking lounge that will sit about 60. Ivy and Cynthia Almario did the interiors, and the bar is set to open last week of October or first week of November.

And finally... As we approach the Christmas season, people often wonder how they would decorate their homes, especially if they've had the same decoration since they were children. I asked Ron Gonzalez, writer for the Manila Fame International show, what the trends are and here's the response:

"Based on our April show there were a lot of baroque style décor with gold, copper, fuchsia and, surprisingly, black as main colors. It seems there were less of the traditional hues of reds and greens. There were a lot of pastels such as pistachio, robin's egg blue, pink, yellow, orange and bright green, as well as silver and white mixed with black."

For comments, please email antonsd@philtatler.com



COLIN McKay's hot restaurant, Sala

Sunday LIFESTYLE Exclusives

Fashion FEUDS

AFTER A DUST-UP at the New York S/S 08 collections, the riff between **IHT** fashion editor **Suzy Menkes** and designer **Marc Jacobs** is now reportedly on the mend.

PHOTO: NEW YORK MAGAZINE

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LA MISTADES

In the world of international fashion, it's not all about air kisses and beautiful clothes. Underneath lies powerful critics who can make or break a label

By Bambina Wise
Contributor

FASHION is an industry that attracts personalities with huge egos—and surprisingly sensitive skins.

When egos collide, the ensuing feud can last for decades: between designers it could simply be a matter of one being dismissive of the other's talents or achievements, as in the case of Karl Lagerfeld and Yves Saint Laurent. Between designers and members of the press, the repercussions could be quite harsh—no more invitations to the shows, no more freebies or press discounts, no more advertising in the magazines.

In 1987, a young French designer by the name of Christian Lacroix created a sensation in the jaded world of Paris couture with his intricate yet bold designs, in sumptuous fabrics heavily embroidered and embellished. Lacroix, who had formerly been with Jean Patou, was instantly heralded as the most exciting talent to emerge in years, a worthy successor to the acknowledged master of couture, Yves Saint Laurent.

Banning the media

All the key fashion press hailed Lacroix as the new hero of fashion. John Fairchild of the influential trade daily Women's Wear Daily went one step further—he splashed Lacroix's collection on the front page of WWD and called him "A new star—no question."

Fairchild, who had long been a supporter of Yves Saint Laurent, was promptly banned from the YSL show by the designer's longtime business partner, Pierre Bergé. Fairchild was unrepentant. WWD devoted a mere six paragraphs to Saint Laurent's collection, while Lacroix hogged the headlines.

Bergé accused Fairchild of using Lacroix "to destroy Saint Laurent." Fairchild shrugged off the accusations.

The feud continued for many years. But today, with Yves Saint Laurent himself no longer at the helm of his company—Stefano Pilati now designs for the label, which is now owned by the Gucci Group—and Fairchild gently eased out of the day-to-day running of WWD and Fairchild Publications, which now belongs to the Conde Nast Group, the feud has fizzled out.

As for other designers and the press, The New York Times' Cathy Horyn and Guy Trebay have been banned from the shows of Carolina Herrera and Dolce e Gabbana, ostensibly for panning their shows in previous articles. Horyn notably called Herrera's Fall 2006 collection "irrelevant," which understandably irked the designer.

Suzy vs Marc

But the most recent--albeit short-lived--feud to stoke the fashion fires was that of International Herald Tribune's Suzy Menkes and designer Marc Jacobs. At his recent Spring/Summer '08 show during New York Fashion Week, Jacobs kept his audience waiting for a good two hours for his show to begin—close to midnight by the time his models sashayed down the runway. Jacobs, incidentally and cleverly, reversed the routine, taking his bow at the beginning instead of the end. An irate Menkes called Jacobs' collection "a freak's costume party," which prompted Jacobs to lash out at Menkes and everyone else in a candid interview with WWD.

At the Louis Vuitton show last week in Paris, Jacobs kept the audience waiting once again, this time for more than an hour. Menkes was in the audience, and apparently Jacobs stuck his tongue out at her, which naturally had all other tongues wagging. But all's well that ends well—it turns out that he had left a peace offering for her at her seat. It was a T-shirt tied up in a beautiful bow, and on the T-shirt was a drawing of Menkes and Jacobs together, embroidered by Lesage.

Bambina Wise is a correspondent for Women's Wear Daily as well as communications director of the boutique PR firm Gulf Quest Media. She used to work for Piaget and Chanel in Hong Kong and currently resides in South Africa.

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GUCCI

BACKSTAGE access at D&G and Versace

ROBERTO Cavalli

Now based in Hong Kong, this former Manila fashion insider gives us a peek into the global rag trade, as well as the S/S 2008 collections from Milan Fashion Week

CONFESSIONS of a Fashion Editor

By Blue Carreon
Contributor

WHEN I WAS STILL WORKING as fashion editor in Manila, I often dreamt of going to the big shows in New York, London, Milan and Paris and to experience firsthand the madness and the sartorial highs of Fashion Week. I wanted to be one of the first to see the new collections, to spot the front-row celebrities and to write about the clothes. Style.com for all its exhaustive coverage of the shows couldn't quite capture the feeling and the atmosphere of being in the thick of the fashion world's month-long extravaganza.

Now that I am based in Hong Kong and working on two magazines on fashion reportage, I have joined the flock that moves from one city to the next in search of trends, lust-worthy accessories and new creative geniuses. I have become part of this group that makes the journey four times a year for both the women's and men's collections despite missed flight connections, freezing temperatures and heat waves, putting new meaning to the term fashion victim.

I have also exchanged but a few words with people whose work I admire—Cathy Horyn of the New York Times, Suzy Menkes of the International Herald Tribune, the photographer Mario Testino and the designers Stefano Gabbana and Domenico Dolce, Donatella Versace and John Galliano. And from my second-, third- and sometimes even fourth-row seat, ogled at the sight of celebrities I only used to read about—Anna Wintour, Andre Leon Talley, Carine Roitfeld, Anna Piaggi, Naomi Campbell, Rupert Everett, Stella Tenant—the list could go on.

And while all this is happening I often end up pinching myself, unable to believe that—for the lack of a more modest term—I am living my dream.

Notes and sketches

With the conclusion of another fashion cycle, I return to the office and flick through my notes and odd sketches, futile attempts at rendering the more outstanding looks from the runway, really. (I should have sat with the very talented Ivarluski Aseron when he offered to teach me fashion illustration.)

I look at my notes and realize that I jotted down equal parts criticism and random thoughts and observations on the mood and the spirit before and after the shows, a fashion mise en scene, if you will. Observations that range from the obvious—how a riff of Rihanna's song "Please Don't Stop the Music" equated the bouncy step of the models at the D&G show filled with Pollyanna meets Penelope Tree looks complete with flower prints, tiered bell sleeves and patchwork denim or how Roberto Cavalli, perhaps to make up for the hour-and-a-half-long delay, defied convention and showed up on the runway and entertained questions from the world press as models coming from the previous show dashed backstage for hair and makeup—to the quirky and intriguing—how the fashion flock seem to favor

MARIO Testino in Milan

Moleskine notebooks, or how The Sartorialist actually disappoints in person or why the model Irina Lazareanu was sitting at a coffee shop across from the Gucci venue while the show was in progress. Perhaps she didn't make the casting?

Anna Wintour, for all her supposed diva behavior, was punctual to all the shows despite the early call times and heavy downpour.

Milan

What came out of the Milan shows? A surprising collection from Roberto Cavalli, which had none of his usual Euro trash aesthetic. He showed frocks that morphed into flowers perhaps inspired by the young American designers Thakoon and Rodarte.

The trio of white dresses on Natasha Poly, Racquel Zimmerman and Freha Beja Erichssen, which opened the show, transported the Cavalli customer to the French countryside, picking lavender blooms instead of downing Dom Perignon on a super yacht in Cap d'Antibes.

The same three models starred in a David Lynch-directed television spot for Gucci's new fragrance, which was debuted before models in combinations of white, black and yellow sashayed down the runway to the sounds of "Strangers in the Night."

Transparency and lightness were echoed at Jil Sander where Raf Simons layered rectangular cuts of organza to make a dress. Tomas Maier at Bottega Veneta expounded on the themes from his fall/winter collection, exquisite draping and surprise darting on dresses, minimalist luxury.

Circles, a theme previously explored on by Inno Sotto (see Mandy Santos' Philippine Tatler Mother's Day photos), were resonant in Karl Lagerfeld's collection for Fendi be they oversized, multi-hued appliqués or optical illusion prints on full skirts.

Donatella Versace mixed the safari look with the brilliant colors of the flowers in the rainforest.

What happens now that the shows are over? I would have to pore over photographs, visit the showrooms to get a better view of the collections, and discuss with photographers the best way to photograph the clothes while remaining true to the visions of the designers. Should we photograph models on a flying trapeze to convey the lightness of spring's new offerings? Or should we set them up like art canvases much like the idea behind Dolce & Gabbana's paint splattered pouf gowns?

Through all this I will be thinking of the next round shows (January for the men's collection and haute couture) and I will be just as thrilled and star-struck as I was on my first show ever.

Blue Carreon was fashion and style editor of Philippine Tatler before moving to Hong Kong, where he is now style editor of Hong Kong Tatler and editor of the fashion magazines Couture and MenMode.

Re-JOYCE

Fashion empress Joyce Ma's new and revitalized boutiques are the toast of Asia

By Anton San Diego

SHE IS THE EMPRESS OF FASHION IN Asia, who was responsible for introducing to this region more than 30 years ago Armani, Gucci, Jil Sander, Pucci, Versace, the Japanese avant-garde Yohji Yamamoto, Kenzo, Commes des Garçons as well as the Belgian designers Dries van Noten and Ann Demuelemeester.

Back then most of the fashion houses were unknown. But that's no longer the case, thanks to Joyce Ma, who single-handedly catapulted them here to über stardom.

About two years ago the French government awarded Ma with the Legion of Honor. The Belgian and Italian governments have also knighted her.

In Suzy Menkes' article in the International Herald Tribune, she wrote of Ma: "I hope that this girl from Shanghai will one day be able to rebuild her native Chinese city as 'the Paris of the East.'" And that has become a reality.

This year Ma opened her 8,000-sq-ft flagship store in Shanghai and has become the visionary that she is by introducing Balenciaga, Lanvin and countless others to what is now one of the most powerful and richest countries in the world.

The new stores in New World Center, Central Hong Kong, as well as the Shanghai stores were done by Belgian designer Gert Voorjans, who created all Dries Van Noten boutiques worldwide. The premier retail space is unlike anything you have seen; the designer used unheard of materials from bronze doors, beehive filigree and gilded domes.

The luxury store is divided into beauty, women's, accessories and men's departments. As I write this they have opened their third Etro store as well as renovated the Joyce Pacific Place boutique in Hong Kong.

Today, Ma along with her daughter Adrienne, leads the tightly knit and somewhat overcrowded fashion pack. Ma is the fashion voice, making unknown designers known and setting the fashion beat with her unerring recognition of talent and vision for excellence.

THE CHAMBER OF CURIOSITIES designed by Thomas Boog

THE WINDOW DISPLAY

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SCENES from a Ball

Here are candid and never-before-seen shots from the 6th Philippine Tatler Ball on Sept 29

PHILIPPINE TATLER

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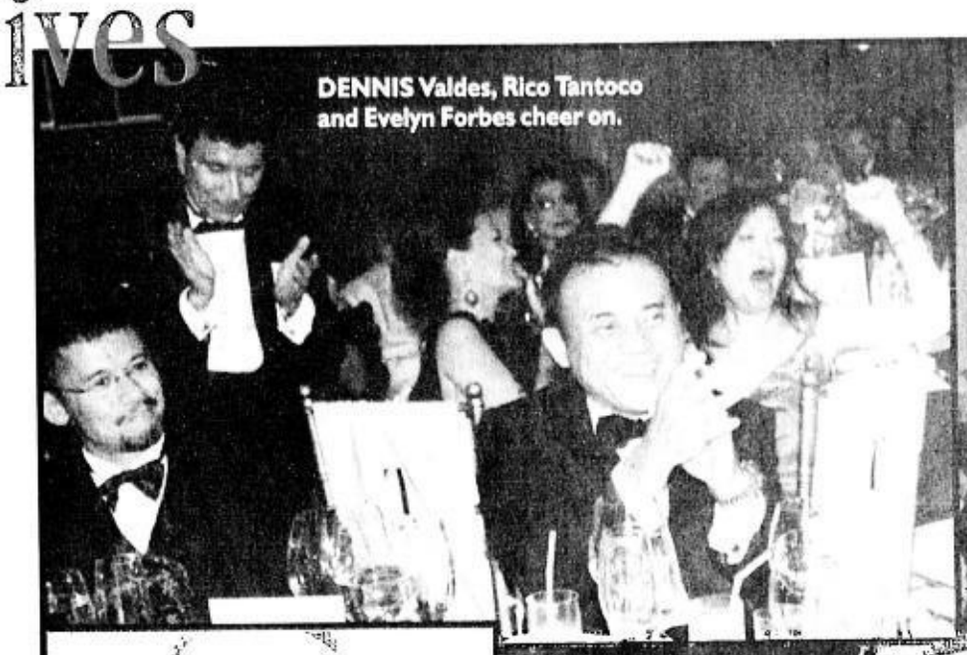


MOST Creative Force Ramon Antonio thanks everyone.

RUFFA Gutierrez and Pops Fernandez catch up.

TONY Meloto—Most Charitable Force—inspires the well-heeled crowd.

MOST Promising Lady Georgina Wilson

FRANCES Lim and Mark Yuchengco make a pair.

MAURICE Arbez is dried and spiffed up upon arrival.

THE MOST eminent couple Alex and Marixi Prieto.

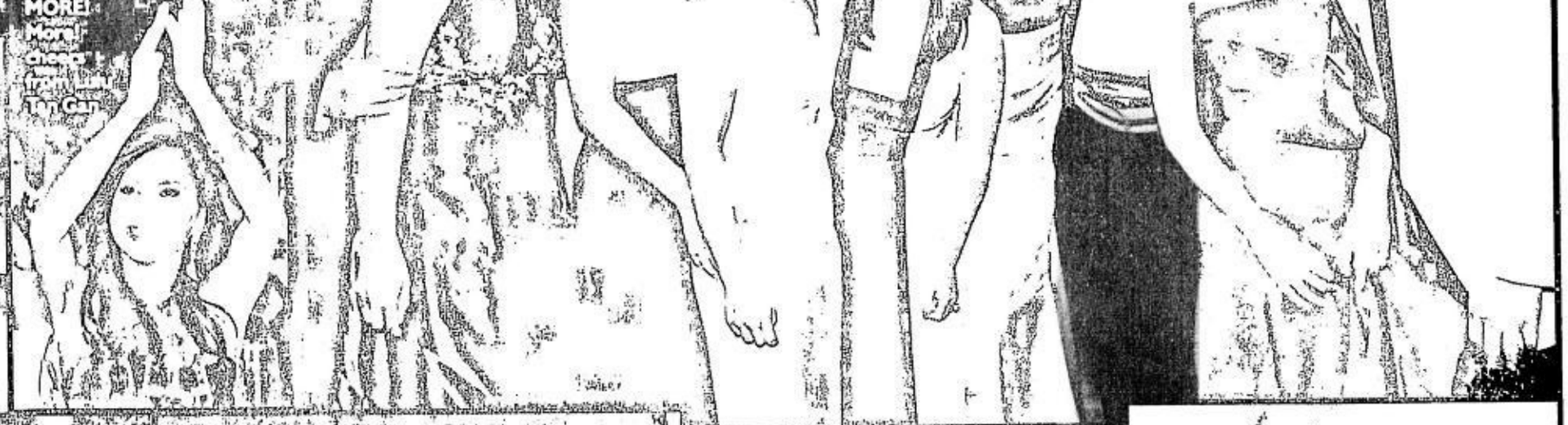
HSBC's Mark and Sarah Waddinson show how it's done.

HUGS from Judith Lynch and Joy Wasmer.

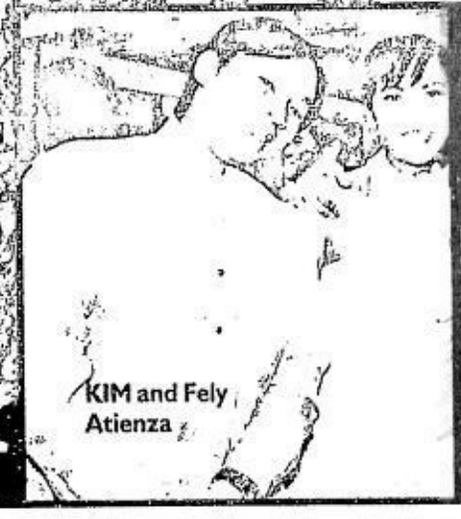
MORE hugs from Doris Ho and Stephan Repkow

FOREVER friends Matthew and Laura Westfall, Kit Zobel, Marianne de Guzman, Jr. and Fred Ayala, Pepe Fernandez and Anton San Diego

JOSEPHINE del Gallego likes what she sees.

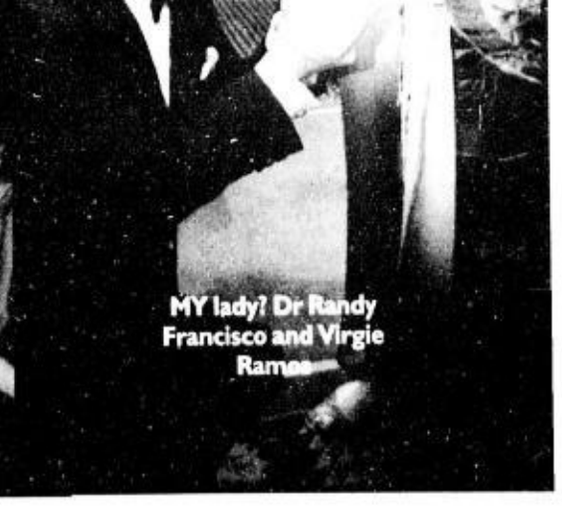


NINA GARCIA into South and Martha Farm



KIM and Fely Atienza

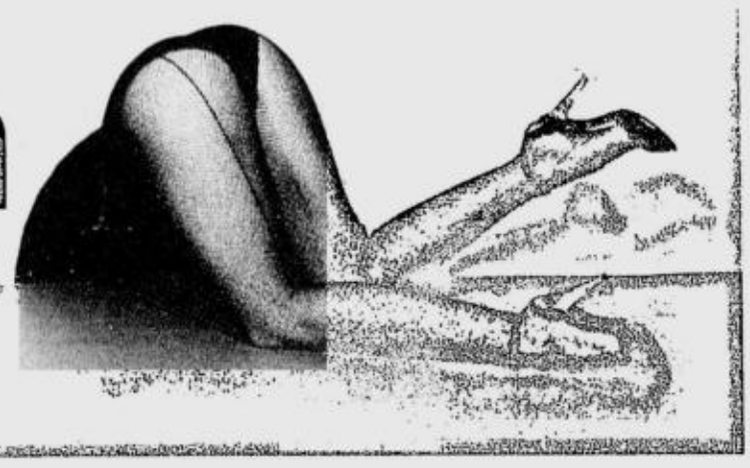
CARMEN Delgado, DJ Montano and Leica Carpo



MY lady? Dr Randy Francisco and Virgie Ramos

WHERE'S Tessa?

REMEMBERING Guy Bourdin

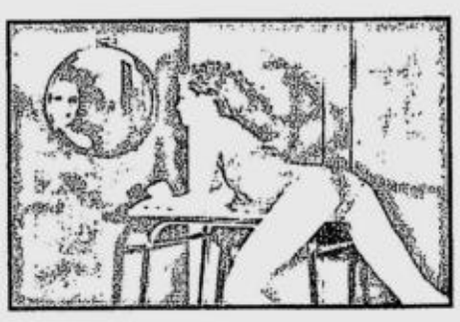


HE WAS PROBABLY ONE of the best photographers in the world, but you may not have heard of him.

The late Guy Bourdin (1928-1991) worked for French Vogue and created unforgettable visuals for Charles Jourdan in the '70s and '80s. His work, which can best be described as uncanny and surrealist, had a strong sense of foreboding and featured common themes ranging from sex to death, violence and glamour, all rolled into one.

His works are chronicled in a two-volume book by his favorite model, Nicolle Meyer. Bourdin remains an enigma as he chose not to be as famous as his contemporaries or his photographs. Rather he took a back seat and let his works speak for himself.

An exhibition hosted by On Pedder will run in Hong Kong, Oct. 19 -31.



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- At least five (5) years experience in real-estate selling
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- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration / Management Engineering / Economics or equivalent
- Preferably with MBA
- With at least 15 years experience in business development functions / market research / financial modeling in a managerial capacity

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree and / or Master's Degree in Business Administration / Management / Economics or equivalent
- With at least 10 years experience in business development functions / market research / financial modeling

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree or Masters Degree in Business Administration / Management / Economics / Management Engineering or equivalent
- Must have at least 5 years experience in business development functions / market research / financial modeling
- Must be mature, highly analytical and resourceful

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANTS
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management / Economics / Management Engineering or equivalent.
- Previous experience in business development / market research / financial analysis would be an asset
- Must be confident, good with numbers, highly analytical and resourceful

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING MANAGERS
- Must have an existing U.S. and / or Europe visa
- Extensive travel experience would be an asset
- Willing to travel overseas 50% of working time
- With at least 5 years sales management experience

MARKETING MANAGERS
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree and /or Master's Degree in Business Administration / Management / Marketing or equivalent
- With at least 10 years relevant work experience in marketing management, preferably in a real estate company

MARKETING OFFICERS
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Marketing or equivalent
- Minimum of 5 years relevant work experience, 2 years of which were in a supervisory level
- Male; must possess professional driver's license

COMMERCIAL CENTER BUSINESS HEAD
- Will be responsible for business development, leasing and mall operation of future commercial centers of the Company
- With at least 20 years experience, 10 years of which is in the commercial center business
- Currently holding AVP / VP / Director position
- Adept in planning, highly analytical, results-driven, a teamplayer with strong personal drive

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGERS/ ENGINEERS
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- With at least 15 years experience in project management of high-rise buildings

PROJECT MANAGERS
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- With at least 10 years experience in project management of high-rise buildings

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING OFFICERS
- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or equivalent
- With at least 3 years working experience in recruitment (from rank & file to executive level positions) and corporate training (i.e., coordination, facilitation and the conduct of training / seminars)
- Computer proficient

HORTICULTURIST
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture / Landscape/ Forestry / Aqua Culture or equivalent
- With at least 10 years working experience in the establishment and maintenance of tree / plant nursery, golf course and landscape gardens, and maintenance of lakes / lagoons
- Knowlegeable in waste management and integration of grounds maintenance with nursery operations

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Must be a college graduate with excellent scholastic records
- Preferably with previous experience in providing sales support and in coordination / overseeing administrative jobs
- Male candidates are preferred

MARKETING ASSISTANTS
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Sales & Marketing / Business / Communications / Advertising or equivalent
- With above average academic records; computer proficient
- Previous experience in a related field would be an asset
- With excellent oral & written communication skills
- Creative, hardworking and resourceful; with good interpersonal skills

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE
- Must have MBA or Master's Degree in Finance
- With at least 10 years experience, preferably from the banking industry in the fields of CTS financing, mortgage financing and Pag-IBIG financing
- Highly analytical and systematic with strong interpersonal skills

FINANCIAL ANALYST
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Finance / Accountancy / Banking or related courses
- Licensed CPA; with background in SAP applications
- With at least 5 years experience as a Financial Analyst

LOANS OFFICER
- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration / Management / Finance / Accountancy / Banking or equivalent
- With at least 5 years work experience in backroom operations of a real estate company or loans department of an established bank
- Highly analytical, professional, service-oriented, works with the highest degree of integrity

LOANS PROCESSOR
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Finance/ Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent
- With at least 1 year work experience in a real estate company or loans department of an established bank
- Computer proficient

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management or equivalent
- With at least 10 years experience, 5 years of which is in customer service
- Team player, results-driven, with strong interpersonal skills

ACCOUNTING / TREASURY ASSISTANTS
- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Finance / Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent
- Previous experience in treasury/general accounting would be an advantage
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- Must have a Master's Degree in Business Administration/ Management / Economics or equivalent
- Preferably with experience in corplan, statistical analysis and / or business research
- Professional, mature, highly analytical, systematic and flexible
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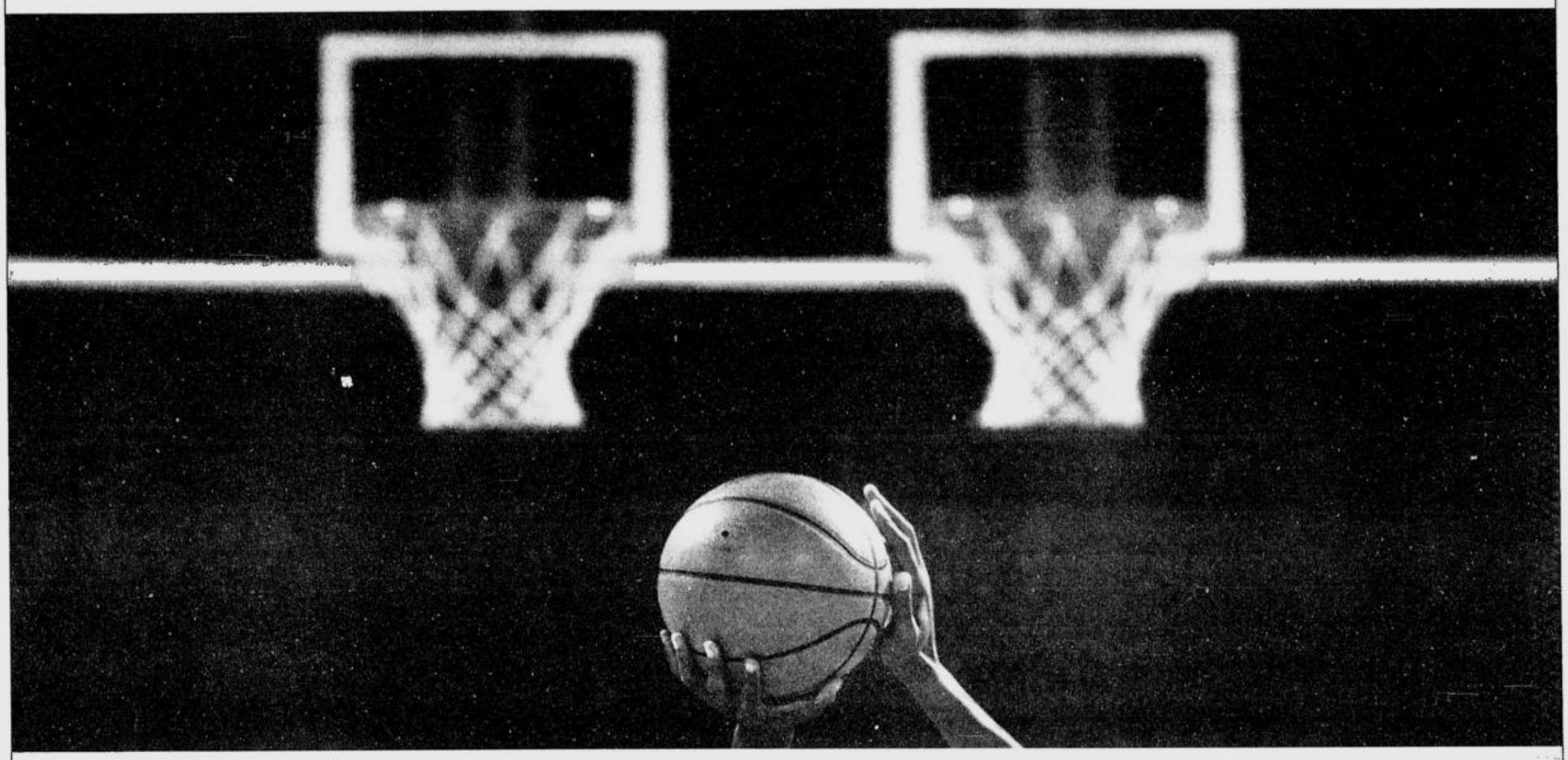

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Due to our expansion plan, we seek dynamic and relentless individual to fill the positions below.

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CHALLENGES
- Manage the day-to-day operations of the Accounting Department
- Prepare financial statements and management reports including budgets and forecasts for the Company
- Work with team to establish and implement accounting and financial policies and procedures to ensure compliance with accounting standards and Group financial policies
- Support Group Finance in business and operational matters
- Credit control, tax and cash management
- Participate in system implementation and upgrade
- Liaise with external auditors, bankers, legal and tax advisors on all related matters

YOUR BACKGROUND
- Degree in Accountancy or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum 3-5 years in professional audit and accounting experience
- Knowledge of international accounting/taxation/transfer pricing/cross-border transactions, financial modeling, SCALA/SAP and Microsoft desktop tools
- Hands-on experience in consolidation preparation and statutory reporting
- Strong analytical, communication and interpersonal skills
- Organized and meticulous
- Proficient in MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- Willingness and ability to perform detailed tasks
- Occasional overseas travel is required

Sales Engineer (1)

CHALLENGES
Your main challenge is achieving the sales target of the designated market/product and promoting the Company's products to various levels of customers and achieving the sales quota assigned. You will need to establish good rapport with the customers, advise and update clients on products' applications knowledge and recommend appropriate pump system solutions. This includes pre-sales work such as quotations and system calculations as well as following up on billing and debt collections and handling of the designated Dealer's accounts

YOUR BACKGROUND
You should posses a diploma or degree in Mechanical Engineering. You should have 2-3 years' technical sales experience in wastewater pump business, preferably with good knowledge of pumping system.

At least 25-35 years old, pro-active and resourceful individual, who possesses excellent negotiation, communication and motivation skills. You must also be computer literate, willing to be trained and to travel (local and abroad).

FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact us to learn more about your career opportunities with Grundfos. Please send your application with 2x2 ID picture and relevant enclosure to:

THE MANAGER
GRUNDFOS PUMPS (PHILIPPINES), INC.
Ground Floor Natividad I Building,
2308 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 1231 PHILIPPINES

Tel. Nos. : (02) 840-2300 loc 102/ 813-1547
Fax No. : (02) 813-1548
E-Mail : jdavid@grundfos.com

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- At least 1 year experience in Quality Control / Quality Assurance and/or Research and Development work
- Must be willing to work in Cavite and/or abroad

Laboratory Specialist/Chemist
- Graduate of B.S. Chemistry, Chemical Engineering
- 35 years of age maximum
- At least 2 years work experience in analytical testing of plastic and inks
- Should be familiar with Gas Chromatography, HPLC, UV-VIS, etc. in plastic application
- Familiar with plastic application in food and its regulations
- Must be willing to work in Cavite and/or abroad

Mechanical Engineer
- Graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- Preferably licensed
- Has supervisory experience
- Computer literate, knowledge in CADD is an advantage
- Knowledgeable in machine troubleshooting, preventive maintenance and fabrication

Electrical Engineer
- Graduate of B.S. Electrical Engineering
- Preferably licensed
- Has supervisory experience
- Can supervise or lead team
- Knowledgeable in computer aided design and drafting

Supervising Accountant/ERP Analyst
- Male or Female, 30 years old or below
- With at least 2 years experience in computerized accounting system
- Must be Certified Public Accountants

Accounting Clerk
- Female, 22 to 30 years old
- With or without experience
- Must be a graduate of B.S. in Accountancy

Telephone Operator / Receptionist
- Female, single, age 22 to 25 years old
- College graduate, must have pleasing personality and joyful disposition
- Excellent English & Filipino verbal communication & listening skills

Salaries are commensurate to qualifications:
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Please indicate the position you are applying for.

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J-SYS Philippines Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of JGC Information Systems Co., Ltd. based in Yokohama, Japan, which is engaged in the design and development of computer integrated manufacturing systems, project management systems and engineering process control systems using Oracle database technology, announces the recruitment of

15 PROGRAMMERS

Candidates with the following qualities will be considered:

- Graduates of Engineering or computer-related courses with at least two **(2) years experience in Java, MS Visual Basic or Oracle D2000**;
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- Have good communication and interpersonal skills;
- Highly self-motivated, team player, hardworking and results-oriented;
- Knowledge in the Japanese language is a plus factor and have strong desire to continuously study the Japanese Language (Nihongo); and
- Must be in perfect health

Successful candidates will be further trained in the Philippines on the latest computer and programming technologies as well as on the Japanese language (Nihongo). May be assigned to work on short to long-term projects overseas.

A competitive compensation package and travel opportunities await the successful candidates. Interested applicants may come with their resumé and recent 2" x 2" photo between 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. on October 15-19, 2007 for the preliminary examinations to be held at:

J-SYS PHILIPPINES, INC.
JGC Bldg. Annex, 1606 Trade Street corner Investment Drive
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Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1780
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Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605
Email : Ameritelco@yahoo.com

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- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be artistic, creative and results-oriented
- Must be computer literate

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- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course or Fashion Merchandising
- With at least six (6) months work experience
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical and results-oriented
- Must have good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

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7. *Electricians/Technicians*
8. *Chef/Cook*
9. *Maintenance Personnel*
10. *Estate Manager/Administrator*
11. *Gardener/Landscape Maintenance*
12. *Plumber*
13. *Swimming Pool Operator/Maintenance*
14. *Housekeeper (sanitation cleaners)*

Qualifications : Male/Female, not over 40 years old, at least 5 years experience
Principal Employer will conduct an Interview on October 15-19, 2007

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6. *Technical Office Engineer (Civil)*
7. *Technical Office Engineer (Mechanical)*
8. *Technical Office Engineer (E&I)*
9. *Planning Engineer*
10. *QC/QA Engineer (Civil)*
11. *Safety Officer*
12. *Qualified NDT Inspector*
13. *Qualified Welding Inspector*
14. *DCC (Document Control)*
15. *Material Control*
16. *Electric Fitter*
17. *Fitters Supervisor*
18. *Pipe Fitter*
19. *Steel Fitter*
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23. *Tungsten Arc Welder*
24. *Grinder*
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26. *Heavy Lift Rigger*
27. *Scaffold Supervisor*
28. *Heat Treatment Technician*
29. *Civil Construction Engineer*
30. *Electrician*
31. *Crane Operator*
32. *Forklift Crane Driver*

Qualifications : Male, not over 40 years old, at least 5 years experience (Ex- Saudi need NOC)

Applicants may submit their latest detailed resume, copies of passport, academic records, work & training certificates, 2x2 (6pcs) & full body (2pcs) pictures, in business attire & white background to:

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OFW deployment to reach 1M, remittances to approach $14b

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYment (DOLE) said that the global deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) is expected to reach and breach the 1-million mark, while total OFW remittances are expected to approach the US$14 billion level by December this year.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that as of mid-year 2007, OFW deployment had already breached the 0.5 million mark in more than 190 destinations worldwide.

He expressed confidence that at this growth rate, total deployment figures will reach if not surmount the one million level worldwide this year.

He said that based on the latest report of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), global OFW deployment had reached 725,999 as of Aug. 31, representing more than two-thirds (72.6 percent) of the total 1-million global OFW deployment goal in 2007.

Brion earlier indicated that from January to July this year, the deployment of OFWs in the new hire category increased in several host destinations including Canada, Italy, Cyprus, New Zealand, and New Caledonia due to the demand for Filipino skilled workers in their industries.

He said the percentage of Filipino professional and technical workers went up by two percentage points to 14.4 percent in the first half of 2007 from 12.4 percent in the same period in 2006, with high end skills accounting for more than two-thirds (73 percent) of the total new hires.

Meanwhile, the rehires increased by 2.5 percent to 361,655 from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 2007, compared to 352,908 in the same period last year. In addition, the total contracts per worker processed by the POEA for overseas Filipino seafarers have expanded by 15.9 percent to 279,922 from 241,522 during the same period.

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Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

The Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator will report only to the Chief of Party and Deputy Chief of Party and be governed by the tasks assigned. He/She will be responsible for collecting information that relates to the nine core project indicators; report on the progress and impact of the project's efforts and activities on the MCA-PTP's nine performance indicators schedule/status as specifically stated in the contract; help the project to gather monitoring and evaluation information on other indicators in order to inform decisions by project management; in particular, design and manage post-training evaluations to determine whether information covered in training is successfully assimilated and applied in actual work situations.

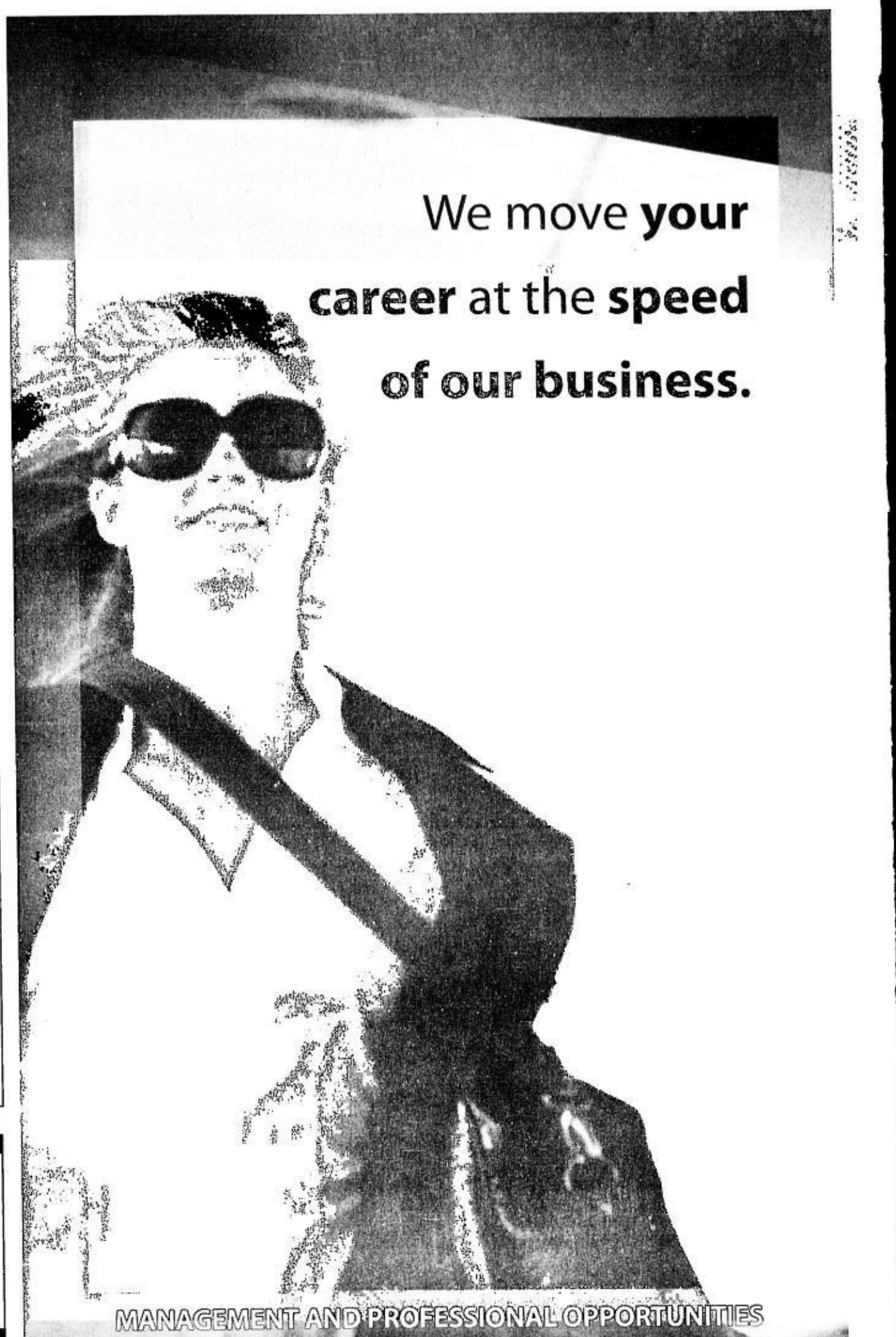
The Coordinator of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation unit will be responsible for all aspects of managing the unit, producing deliverables, managing one junior M&E specialist, and any other duties requested by the Chief of Party, Deputy Chief of Party, or the Officer in Charge/MSI. He/She must have at least 5 years professional experience.

Events Coordinator

The Events Coordinator will report to the Director of Communications. He/She will assist the appropriate Component Manager in planning and supporting all events for the Project; create, maintain and update an Events Calendar; arrange and/or coordinate all banners/tarpaulins, etc., that are needed for events; prepare the Event Checklist for all component events in coordination with Component Advisers/Managers; ensure in coordination with Component Managers, Training Coordinator, and Communications Director that all supplies and materials are on-site for events. He/She will coordinate with Component Managers for the management of actual program events; coordinate as needed with venue representatives to ensure a smooth execution of Project events; and other tasks and assignments as directed by the Chief of Party.

The Events Coordinator must have at least 3 years professional experience.

Interested applicants, please send in your applications to **mpastrana@msi-mca.com**, or mail them to Unit 2302, 23rd Floor, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Sedeno corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati, 1227. Deadline for applications is October 19, 2007.



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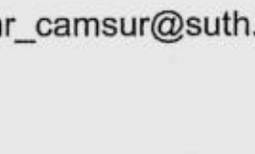

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Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
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look for GIAN MENDOZA

Filinvest Land, Inc. 173 P. Gomez St. San Juan City
Tel. No.: 727-0431 local 213
look for MARICHELLE SALANGUIT

you may also email your resume to
recruitment@filinvestcorpcity.com
(Please indicate position applied for, desired work location and job code on the cover letter or in the "Subject" of your email.)

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Preferably CPA board passer; at least 1 yr. experience in accounting functions esp. financial statement & bank reconciliation preparation pref. gained from bank/other financial institutions

RESEARCH SPECIALIST
Business, Economics/related discipline; at least 1 year exp. in policy-related research & industry studies; excellent command of written & verbal English; at least 4 hrs. training on research methods & analysis

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- Meet customer requirements through first contact resolution. Minimize escalation to Tier-II support.
- Confirm customer understanding of the solution and provide additional customer education as needed.
- Prepare complete and accurate work and update customer file.
- Communicate effectively with individuals/teams in the program to ensure high quality and timely expedition of customer requests.
- Effectively transfer misdirected customer requests to an appropriate party.
- Contribute ideas to resolve problems to better serve the customer and/or improve productivity.
- Participate in activities designed to improve customer satisfaction and business performance.
- Occasionally use decision-support tools to answer questions.
- Solve problems that may be unstructured and that may require reliance on conceptual thinking.
- Offer solutions to issues that are often non-standard/non-routine and require some clarification.

Requirements:

- Experience on end-to-end Payroll process, preferably US Payroll.
- Basic knowledge on US Payroll Taxes and 401K.
- Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles.
- Knowledge of Payroll or ERP systems is a must.
- Experience in a call center (technical/customer) organization providing telephone or email support or relative experience in a BPO is a plus.
- Knowledge of Internet, browsers and web navigation is desirable.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
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- Troubleshooting skills.

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- Can work with minimal supervision

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- College degree holder in Computer Engineering or Electronics and Communications Engineering
- 6 months to 1 year experience on this job
- Knowledge of computer operations system like Windows XP and Windows 2000/MAC OS X, desktop applications like MS office, Open Office, Email client, Adobe Products, Troubleshooting skills, Interpersonal Skills, Communication Skills
- Knowledge in Network

RESEARCH SECTION HEAD
QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate
- 2 years experience in related or similar job
- 2 years management experience
- Computer Skills (Windows, Word, Netscape, Explorer, Excel, Corel Draw, Powerpoint)
- Familiar with publishing industry

HR SPECIALIST
QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or other related Social Science course
- With at least 3 years solid experience in various aspects of Human Resources which includes Recruitment, Training, and Labor Relations
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- With excellent interpersonal Communication Skills, strong Analytical Skills, and a Service – Oriented personality

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DOLE opens registration for 2nd special nursing review classes

THE REGISTRATION FOR THE SECOND SPECIAL NURSING Review Classes initiated by the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) for the voluntary retake examinations of the equivalent of Tests III and V of the Nursing Licensure Examination of 2006 started on Sept. 25.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said the registration process is expected to benefit, through the provision of free review classes, the remaining estimated 4,000 of the total 17,000 expected to voluntarily retake the said equivalent tests this year.

"All that a registrant has to do is to open an online computer and access the website provided for the Special Review program, www.specialnursingreview.dole.gov.ph, and follow the pertinent instructions in order to successfully register," Brion said.

Registration ends on Oct. 10 in time for the review proper that will start on Oct. 13.

Apart from the on-line registration, the Dole regional offices and the participating nursing schools are also open for manual registration.

The following are the participating schools and their respective schedule of review classes: St. Louis University in Baguio (Oct. 15-21 / Oct. 22-28); University of the Philippines-Manila (Oct. 13, 14, 22-26 / Nov. 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10-12); University of Sto. Tomas (Oct. 16, 17, 22-27, 29-30 / Nov. 10, 11, 17-19); University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (Oct. 29-Nov. 4); St. Paul University Manila (Oct. 15-Nov. 18); PCU Mary Johnston (Nov. 5-11, 12-18); Trinity University of Asia (Oct. 22-28, Oct. 29-Nov. 4 / Nov. 5-11); St. Paul University Iloilo (Oct. 22-28); Cebu Normal University (Oct. 15-21, 22-28); and San Pedro College in Davao (Oct. 22-29, 30-31 / Nov. 5-9).

Brion said that both on-line and manual registrants to the Special Review Classes are advised to present during the first day of the review classes their Proof of Confirmation of Registration and PRC License.

During the first nationwide online and manual registration for the special review program from March 21 until April 4 this year the University of the Philippines College of Nursing served as the national coordinating center.

The Labor Secretary said that the participation of some 23 nursing Centers of Excellence (COEs) and schools nationwide facilitated the successful online and manual registrations of 11,272 voluntary registrants from March 21 until April 4 this year, about three-fourths of whom, or 8,284, attended the special reviews.

Subsequently, some 13,338 of the 17,000 nursing graduates and passers of the NLE 2006, majority of them benefited by the special review, took the June 2007 voluntary retake examinations of the equivalent of Tests III and V, and more than two thirds (68.96 percent or 9,198) successfully passed.

Brion advised all those who have not yet registered to do so in the allotted registration period. The voluntary special review may be availed of only once, and after the estimated 17,000 have voluntarily retaken the equivalent of Tests III and V, the special review program shall already conclude.

For further information, please contact the DOLE Help Desk at 527-8000 or the UP Manila Coordinating Center Help Desk at 523-14787 / 523-1478 or directly visit http://www.specialnursingreview.dole.gov.ph.

EventWorx for OFW Jobs 2007

AIMED AT PROVIDING A VENUE WHERE DIRECT RECRUITers, foreign principals, and OFW wannabes can meet for a 3-day grand recruitment—EventWorx Company in cooperation with Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, WorkAbroad.ph, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, opens OFW Jobs 2007: A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair, at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, on Oct. 18-20, (10 am-7 pm).

With booth spaces available for on-the-spot interviews, a spacious lounge for jobseekers, a fill-up counter, a common job-posting board, and a fully-automated applicant registration system, courtesy of WorkAbroad.ph—the event is sure to attract jobseekers wanting to work abroad.

A 10x14ft wide screen will be installed in the venue, showing a list of jobs from participating recruiters—applicants, and mallers will have a full view of the various opportunities available in the job fair.

The event also encourages OFWs to get into business, specifically for their loved ones and families in the country, while actively working abroad—a separate booth cluster will be allocated for entrepreneurs wishing to showcase their products and services, specifically business ideas available for franchising, and other livelihood options.

OFW Jobs 2007: A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair is being supported by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Alaxan FR, Clickthecity.com, Pinoy Exchange.com, CareerCare.com.ph, Trabaho.com, and 91.5 Energy FM Radio.

For bookings and other inquiries, please contact EventWorx Company at telephone 746-2764, mobile phone 0906-2457831, email via info_eventworx@yahoo.com, or visit www.ofwjobs2007.com.

PMAP CONFERS EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AND PEOPLE MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The People Management Association of the Philippines recently concluded their 31st PMAP Awards on Sept. 28 at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. Photo shown (from left) Nicasio L. Lim, FPM, Director for Human Resources of Universal Robina Corporation with his award for 2007 Outstanding People Manager of the Year; and Philippine Heart Center with the Outstanding Employer of the Year Award.

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Managing Organization-Based Conflict	Oct. 17	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
SMART LEADERSHIP-Supervisory Program	Oct. 18-19	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 / 0917-3257870 www. Ariva.com.ph
BRANDS ALIVE! Introduction to Brand Management	Oct. 18-19	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 / 0917-3257870 www. Ariva.com.ph
Management Training Program Essentials for Organizational Development	Oct. 23-25	Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Graphics and Publishing Seminar	Oct. 24-26	AIM Acced Conf. Cent Makati City	James Tornea tel. 632-8960639 / fiera@info.com.ph
Accelerated Selling	Oct. 24-26 1:30-5:30 p.m.	RCBC Plaza Makati City	Powermax Consulting Group Tel. 687-9014/5748 call Leni 0905-3354486
Labor Relations Updates - 2007	Oct. 25 1-5 p.m.	U.P. Solair Diliman, Q.C.	Phil. Industrial Relations Society/941-6170 Atty. Cesario Azucena/0915-9747772; email: ferdie.atanacio@gmail.com
Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?	Oct. 31	TBD (Visayas)	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Top Secrets of Handling BIR Audit Workshop	Nov. 7-9 1:30-5:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas	Powermax Consulting Group Tel. 687-9014/5748 call Leni

Top secrets of handling BIR audit workshop set

FINALLY, A WORKSHOP THAT WILL REVEAL inside information on sure-fire ways to save money without compromising integrity. Don't miss this very important event slated on Nov. 7-9, 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria, Ortigas. Topics include Day 1: The BIR Letter of Authority; Anatomy of LA; 17 Common Errors in Handling BIR LA; Smart Ways of Dealing with BIR Letter of Authority; Day 2: Responsibility and Accountability of Bookkeepers, Accountants, Auditors and Company Officials; Reasons for Receiving Subpoena Duces Tecum; First Notice; Second Notice; Third Notice; Risks of Ignoring Subpoena Duces Tecum; Common Mistakes in Handling Subpoena Duces Tecum Effective Strategies; Day 3: How to Prepare Motion, Protest and Petition Against BIR Letter of Authority — The Right Forms; How to Prepare Motion, Protest and Petition Against IR Subpoena Duces Tecum— The Right Forms; Secrets of Cancelling BIR Letter of Authority; Secrets of Cancelling Subpoena Duces Tecum, etc. Registering for one day only is allowed, but people are encouraged to attend the whole program.

The resource lecturer is Prof. Emy Maestro, CPA; Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan; and author of 14 books on Accounting and Auditing. This seminar is sponsored by Powermax Consulting Group. Please call Leni at 687-9014 / 5748 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

Managing organization-based conflict

THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE Philippines (ECOP) is set to conduct a Workshop on Managing Organization-Based Conflict on Oct. 17, at the ECOP Board Room, Makati City.

This workshop is ingeniously designed to help employees manage interpersonal differences that impair teamwork, quality, decision-making and cooperation in the organization. More than just a training seminar, this practical program contains resources for changing organizational culture.

The competencies to be learned in this workshop include: understanding the nature and true causes of organizational conflict; identifying one's dominant conflict management style; reflecting on one's own reflexes to conflict and how they have helped/hindered in managing conflicts in the organization; managing organizational conflicts effectively and successfully. For inquiries, call the ECOP Training and Development Department at 0906-5552995, 899-0411 local 116 or at fax no. 895-8623 or e-mail at training@ ecop.org.ph.

Pre-registration is required. Upon receipt of registration by e-mail, a billing statement complete with full details for accounting purposes will be sent to the participants.

Labor relations updates 2007

RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY IMPORtant developments in the field of labor-management relations among which is the implementation of RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization. There are also landmark decisions of the Supreme Court or latest significant jurisprudence on labor cases. In view of these events, the Philippine Industrial Relations Society (PIRS) shall hold a forum on "LR Updates 2007" on Oct. 25, Thursday, 1-5 PM, at the U.P. SOLAIR, Diliman, Q.C. Lawyer Cesario Azucena, multi-awarded author of books on Labor Code, IR practitioner and bar reviewer shall be the Forum resource speaker.

For details and registration, you may contact PIRS Secretariat: Ferdie (9416170/0915-9747772); Letty (0917-8917134) or Flo (0917-4088790).

The PSTD convention is back!

THE GLOBAL MARKET NOW DEMANDS TRANSformational changes from your organization, with all the new developments and innovations. You may now find the need to seek keys to getting your organization to stay ahead. Learn how to cope with these changing times and uncertainties through your most vital resources, your people, by joining the Philippine Society for Training and Development's 33rd National Convention on Oct. 24-26, at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City. All Human Resource Development Practitioners are invited to learn more about this year's theme, "Building People, Deepening Values, Strengthening Relationships: Key to Performance and Results." Times may be changing fast, but you'll be bringing your organization to the top with all your new ideas from the PSTD 33rd National Convention.

For information and registration, please call 8139072 or 8140372; email pstdsecretariat@yahoo.com or secretariat@pstd.org; or check out www.pstd.org.

Ang pinakamalaking Overseas Job Fair ng taon!

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Requirements:
- Male or Female, 22 to 32 years old, single or married
- Graduate of any four-year course from a reputable school
- Possesses excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Sales experience preferred but not required
- Has pleasing personality and can deal effectively with clients
- Willing to undergo extensive training
- Fresh graduates/ entry level applicants are welcome to apply

Attractive compensation package (monthly allowance plus commissions), continuous training program, fast paced career growth and exciting opportunities for unlimited income awaits successful candidates.

INCENTIVES: Possible trips to the U.S., Europe and Asia for proven closers.

ONE DAY RECRUITMENT for **PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)** is scheduled on **Wednesday, October 17, 2007** from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the **6/F RFM Corporate Center Pioneer cor. Sheridan Sts., Mandaluyong City.**

Interested applicants may contact (02) 631-8101 loc 7433 or text (0917) 853-6539 c/o Tin Clariza

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Responsibilities :
- Responsible for leading and motivating in-house sales team to meet targeted sales quotas of the company
- Monitors and measures sales team activities such as sales forecasts, plans and targets.
- Develops and implements sales strategies and conducts sales presentations
- Coordinates with Marketing group to identify plans and strategies for launching events and sales activities

Requirements:
- Must be a graduate of any four year business course
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Must have at least 2 years sales supervisory or managerial experience
- Preferably has established network of property consultants or a sales team
- Must be goal oriented and possesses strong leadership skills
- Can execute sales programs
- With outstanding interpersonal and communication skills
- Has strong sales negotiations and motivation skills
- Must be flexible, results-driven and a team player
- Can work well under pressure
- Adept in computer applications

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Responsibilities:
- Will be assigned to a Philtown project
- Updates, maintains files and proper safekeeping of documents
- Reviews and sorts all internal and external communications

Requirements:
- Graduate of BS Civil Engineering
- Male or female, 23 to 26 years old
- With at least 1 year related working experience
- Self-motivated, result-oriented, fast learner and hardworking
- Must be well versed in MS office and with background in Autocad, AdobePhotoshop or any related software
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- License will be an advantage

Respondents are requested to send their resumes and recent 2x2 photo to the following addresses:

Via email : pti.hrd@philtown.com.ph
Via mail : (please indicate position on the envelope)

PHILTOWN HRD
4/F RFM Corporate Center
Pioneer cor. Sheridan Sts., Mandaluyong

PHILTOWN
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A new mining company invites applications for the following positions. General qualifications include:
- Graduate of a 4-year course from a reputable institution
- Computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office and relevant software
- Possess excellent oral and written communication skills; strong analytical skills
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➢ **Human Resource Manager**
- Graduate of Psychology /HR Management or related course,
- at least 10 years experience in HR Management, including Recruitment & Placement, Compensation & Benefits Administration, Organizational Development, Training & Development and Industrial Labor relations
- at least 4 years in a management position, preferably in mining or construction
- Excellent communication and people handling & facilitation skills
- Background in Quality Management Systems

➢ **Finance Manager**
- Graduate of Finance, Accountancy or related course, CPA a plus
- At least 5 years experience in accountancy and audit, with 3 years in management position
- Knowledge of international accounting standards
- Develop policies and internal controls
- Lead in the development and implementation of best practices in financial accounting and reporting
- Monitor daily financial drivers of the business and oversee budget planning and monitoring
- develop Treasury functions

➢ **Executive Assistant to the President**
- At least 5 years experience in corporate office environment with exceptional office and administration skills
- Prepare and coordinate meeting schedules, prepare agenda for Board meetings
- Project monitoring and coordination
- Liaise with Field office/s as necessary for coordination of regular updates and reporting
- Can work effectively with minimal supervision

➢ **Human Resource Supervisor – Field Operations**
- At least 5 years experience in HR management, preferably industrial background
- Handle day-to-day HR issues in industrial setting
- Assist Head Office in formulation and updating of HR policies & procedures
- Implement and monitor company's HR policies & procedures
- Handle recruitment and placement of field personnel in coordination with Head Office HR
- Possess excellent people handling & facilitation skills

➢ **Administration Manager – Field Operations**
- At least 5 years experience in administration, preferably industrial background
- Works collaboratively with colleagues, with strong self-management skills
- Demonstrated success in planning, controlling and organizing and completing complex tasks and multiple administrative functions

➢ **Cost Accounting Staff – Field Operations**
- Graduate of Finance, Accountancy or related course, CPA a plus
- At least 3 years experience in professional audit and accounting experience, including bookkeeping, cost accounting and general accounting
- Background in preparation of VAT, SSS, Philhealth, tax and WHT remittances

Please submit your resume to: applyhrdmanager@gmail.com

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Qualifications:
1. College graduate in any of the following fields:
   a. Engineering / Science
   b. Accounting
   c. Business Administration
   d. Marketing
   e. Public Relations
2. Computer literate
3. Proficient in English - written and oral
4. Possess good interpersonal communication skills
5. Must have Driver's license

Send non-returnable comprehensive resumé with photo to:

SPARTEC International Marketing Inc.
Unit 113, 7441 Santillan Bldg. 7441 Santillan, St. Pio del Pilar, Makati City, Philippines

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URGENTLY NEEDED

3 SALES / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Male/Female, 22-35 years old, graduate of Medicine or any related course
- Must have a proven track record in sales and marketing
- Has a very good written and oral communication skill (English & Filipino)

3 ARCHITECT/CADD OPERATOR
- Male/Female
- Proficient in Auto CAD applications with 3D Rendering, knowledge in furniture designs and 3D presentation is an advantage

PAYROLL MASTER
- Female, BS Accounting Graduate, at least 2 years experience in payroll preparation, govt. reports & benefits such as SSS, HDMF and BIR

LABORATORY ASSISTANT
- Male 23 to 35 years old
- BS Chemistry graduate with experience in handling storage management of chemicals.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with ID Picture to:

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Box 19 Greenhills Post Office
1502 San Juan, Metro Manila

Project Manager
- Ability to work on problem where analysis of situation require.
- 45-50 years old
- Know how to speak Korean language
- 10-15 years experience as a Project Manager in construction

Construction Manager
- Highly organized and with strong leadership
- 45-50 years old
- 10 years Managerial experience in construction
- Know how to speak Korean language
- With knowledge in project cost, bids and document

Assistant Construction Manager
- 35-40 years old
- 5 years experience in construction
- Know how to speak Korean language
- With engineering experience is an advantage

Administration Manager
- Male; between 35-45 years old
- 5 years experience as an Administration Manager
- Know how to speak Korean language
- With ability to get along with all types of people

Qualified applicant may apply personally to:

KT Global Subic Inc.
15-18 Subic Bay Commercial Light and Industrial Park
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Please bring your resumé along with you
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CONTACT NO.: 497-8437

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

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Qualifications:
- Male
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- With above average to high scholastic achievements
- With at least five (5) years experience on roads and bridges construction
- Knowledgeable on construction equipment maintenance
- Proficient in both oral and written communication
- Reliable, result-oriented and can work under extreme pressure
- Computer literate
- 25 to 40 years old
- Salary range P20,000.00 - P50,000.00/month depending on experience
- Willing to accept assignment within Region XI

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS

Qualifications:
- Male
- 30 to 40 years old
- With at least five (5) years experience on heavy equipment repair and rehabilitation works
- Reliable, result-oriented and can work under pressure
- Salary range P12,000.00 - P20,000.00/month depending on experience
- Willing to accept assignment within Region XI

Interested applicants may send their resumé to:

The Manager
Ulticon Builders, Inc.
2/F Uncle Mark Bldg., Quimpo Blvd.
Ecoland, Matina, Davao City
Tel. Nos. 297-6364 and 297-7116

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
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WAREHOUSEMEN
with experience in construction firm
AUTO ELECTRICIAN
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIANS
FABRICATORS & FITTERS
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ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN
- 22 to 27 y/o, electronics graduate (2 or 4 yrs.)
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- BSBA graduate; Female, 22-27 yrs. old

Apply personally and bring resumé at:
West Heaven Bldg. # 37 CDC St. (formerly Tacio) corner Ipo St., La Loma Q.C.
Look for MILLER Tel. #'s: 7310231 / 7127763

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Female 25 to 35 years old
At least 2 years experience in Accounting
Computer Literate

Corporate Account Officer

Male or Female 22 to 30 years old
Graduate of any business course
Computer Literate

Send your RESUME to:

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4 Golden St., Gloria I Subd., Tandang Sora, Quezon City
newsynergy@skydsl.com.ph *Look for Lanie*

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INQUIRER BRe

Consult this list before you go into a consulting life

Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

HERE IS A POSSIBLE SCENARIO: you decided to avail of your company's early retirement program to become a consultant for an advocacy project close to your heart. For once in your life, you feel that you were doing exactly what you want to do. The new job also provides more time to spend with your young family. On the other hand, you come to the realization that the income you are getting as a project consultant is not as steady and substantial as your previous corporate job. What's more, there are no benefits attached.

Following are some tips to consider before you actually make a move towards a seemingly more relaxed, albeit unpredictable working life:

Set a clear career goal. Obviously, you will just end up more confused if you don't have a defined target in mind. It is always beneficial to begin with the goal in mind. For example, you may be attracted to becoming a project consultant in order to allow more time to do other things such as community service, a hobby or simply to grow up with your kids. Perhaps, you have the intention of starting your own business eventually. Whatever it is, try to commit your thoughts on paper so that the plan starts to crystallize before your very eyes.

Know your obligations. If you are the head of a family, you are probably concerned about providing for the needs of the household. As such, it is important to consider the consequences of your career moves. For example, your new consulting job may allow you to work on your favorite charity work but there are also other things to consider such as the education of your children, building a home, etc. The needs of your family are not limited to financial concerns only. Consequently, you may also discern that your family needs your time and presence as well.

Make a financial plan for the first two years. Before jumping ship, try to write a strategic career map that includes your financial plan as well.

It may take some time before you can get a good stream of consulting assignments on a regular basis. Therefore, it is important to have calculated the risks and prepared for any eventuality. Your financial plan should include your monthly budget and backup resources in case your work doesn't turn out as expected. Also try to analyze what are the realistic consulting opportunities available.

Change your outlook. If you are used to being employed, it may take a while before you get the hang of what it means to live a consultant's life. A consultant's existence is filled with sweet expectations about having greater control over your time and schedule. However, the new role also requires that you take the lead in business development or that you manage your time well. On your own, you would need to find creative ways of making your work perpetually viable and profitable.

For some people, there is no better work experience than being on their own. If you have such preference, you may already be considering trying it out as a consultant. The road less traveled is not always well-paved.

The consulting life may also cause sleepless nights if you are not used to the pace or demands. As Dora the Explorer constantly teaches, there are good things that await those who confidently traverse the dusty terrain with the right map and a backpack full of gadgets.

(Send feedback to www.joyposadas.blogspot.com)

Exercise moral leadership

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Tita Datu Puangco

"BE HONEST. EVEN IF OTHERS ARE not. Even if others will not. Even if others cannot." This was the statement that caught my eye, emblazoned on the cover of the laptop of a participant in a recent workshop. For the final L-earning Moments column on "Techniques for Self-Leadership," I have selected a vital self-leadership technique: practice moral leadership.

Many challenges confront business today. A moral leader needs character and a solid anchor in his or her values and beliefs. These values strengthen and not weaken, even if he faces massive and accelerating change, increased competition and the need for constant innovation, changing consumer lifestyle and trends and new technology product.

Common good

During our time, we had a subject in elementary school called, "Good Manners and Right Conduct." Then, we had catechism lessons that emphasized the Ten Commandments. Many people today, think those lessons are passé.

This is the age that glorifies youth, technology, wealth and the creation of wealth above all values. A self-leader who makes money, power, and personal aggrandizement as the motivation for leadership will not achieve the fulfillment that goes with true leadership. For the heart of leadership is the ability to struggle and sacrifice for the good of others and the concern for the common good.

John Paul II mentioned this in his talk to the laity, "It seems opportune ... to the great and lowly the Christian concept of life which requires a spirit of moderation and sacrifice. Unfortunately, there is everywhere a hedonistic conception and tendency that would reduce life to the search after pleasure and the full satisfaction of all the passions, with a subsequent great loss to both body and soul."

Corporate governance

In business today, there is growing awareness of ethical practices in governance. The purpose is to help determine what business practices are right or wrong in the light of moral standards. Business ethics is the code of morals or body of principles which governs the conduct of the businessman in the relationship with his customers, his competitors, with the government and the public.

Ethical practices

Adhering to business ethics seems common sense. But ask an entrepreneur struggling with the dilemma how to deal with an internal revenue audit, then you realize that moral dilemmas are not as easy as they seem. Or a motorist, perhaps, in a rush to go to work, who is hailed by a policeman for an infraction. These are the tests of ethical practice.

What are some of the best practices for ethical leadership?

One, is to be a transparent and authentic leader. The practice of transparency is important. It is rooted in core values based on greatest good for the greatest number of people. Leaders believe in doing the right thing at all times no matter the consequences. The transparent leader tells the whole truth, learns from the failures and successes of others, cultivates integrity and mentors others to do the same.

Two, is to hire principled people. Hire people not just for their credentials but for their values. They are people who are ready to serve and consider service as an asset. They are rewarded for the practice of values.

Three, is to build a value-based organization. It is a culture that eliminates company politics. It builds trust and fosters good dialogue and communications. It meets all the requirements necessary to comply with regulations and makes information available to everyone.

Vicious cycle

Studies have shown that people who commit fraud and corruption go through the vicious cycle of motivation, opportunity and rationalization.

Motivation may be the desire to get rich quickly. Opportunity refers to tempting situations when one is offered kickbacks, commissions, personal loans, gifts, favors or other items of value. Then the rationalization: "I am not paid enough." This is not company money anyway..." "This is standard practice."

How to avoid these situations? Some techniques include: saying a firm but polite no, informing your boss, citing company policy and praying for grace to resist.

Ethical dilemmas

On the practical side when confronted with ethical dilemmas, ask yourself three questions before you move to action:

One, is it legal? Will I be violating civil law or company policy?

Two, is it fair to all concerned in the short term as well as in the long term promoting win-win relationships?

Three, how will it make me feel about myself? Can I feel good if other people knew about my decision or action?

Robert Coles, author of "Lives of Moral Leadership" writes, "We need heroes, people who can inspire us morally, to spur us on to purposeful action—and from time to time we are called on to be those heroes, leaders for others, either in a small, day to day way or on the world's larger stage ... the need for moral leadership is ever present."

This is the 10th and final column for "Techniques for Self Leadership." We acknowledge all those who enrolled in our free distance learning certificate course. For those who wish to take this last chance to enroll, you may read the past columns at Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc.'s website (www.ancillaedc.com.ph), under the News & Features section and inform us of your intention to enroll. We will be sending the test questions to enrollees through fax or e-mail. God bless.

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting; a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Feedback at l-earningmoments@ancillaedc.com.ph)

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Gospel. Luke 17: 11-19
Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

A grateful heart

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

I REMEMBER A SIGNBOARD IN A SCHOOL CANTEEN SAYING: "Please say thank you." Whoever placed such a cute sign must have had an educator's heart desiring to remind the young who nowadays may be so engrossed with a host of objects gratifying their senses but unfortunately dulling their sense of gratitude. Most people would long to hear the two sweet words, "thank you" which could spring only from the depths of one's soul in tune with the divine goodness. Even Jesus seemed to look for such spirit of gratitude from those He had healed and cleansed. A grateful heart, which is a mark of a good person, does not express itself only in words, but more concretely in deeds and works.

Working could be an expression of one's spirit of gratitude. When I asked a seminarian why he wanted to become a priest, he said that he wanted to thank God for all the graces he has received and therefore would want to serve Him all his life as a priest. But all of us have received everything we have from God, and we need not be a seminarian or a priest to desire and actually serve the Giver of life through our work and daily activities. Everyone could do one's work with the intention of thanking God for all he has received from Him. A grateful heart would certainly express itself more and better than an indifferent one through a much superior work performance.

I believe that to improve the quality of the workplace and even the performance of a business and company, there is need for everyone in the workplace to be reminded of this human trait of gratefulness to God and to others. Accepting with faith the words of Jesus could "imprint" such sense of gratitude in one's heart and mind. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Still counting

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

"COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS" IS SUCH AN OLD DICTUM THAT people tend to underestimate its power. In the corporate world where we are practically brainwashed to "perform" and "succeed," we soon learn to groom ourselves for the race, to prove ourselves the best, to outrun competitors (whether they're rival companies or coworkers in our very own department). Before we know it we have made of ourselves virtual slaves, loyal only to lesser masters whose illusions of excellence we share. The Source of all we have and all we are is all but forgotten.

Finding ourselves in great difficulty, we turn to palliatives and boosters to keep us going. Accustomed to the comfort derived from pleasurable habits or pain-killing remedies, we race on, supremely confident of our capabilities, eyes set on the prize at the finish line: material rewards, the public's praise, the sense of triumph felt at the sight of our rivals' defeat. But more often than not we do not get to the finish line—we die before we win, because we overwork ourselves to death, to a spiritual death.

Work was never meant to kill us—it is there to bring us blessings. And counting our blessings is a master key to peace, happiness, fulfillment, love—all the best things we are created for—because it awakens in us a thankful heart. It opens our eyes to the goodness in ourselves, in others, in the world, until we gratefully acknowledge that winning a worldly race is not our ultimate goal. When we realize in our depths that we and what we have come from a Divine Father who loves us beyond our dreams, we learn to be serene, leading to the healing and renewal of our whole being. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

Coffee farmers get direct market access

IN 1986, COFFEE BRAND NESCAFE opened its first Nestlé Satellite Buying Station in Davao, providing coffee farmers with direct access to Nestlé through its Direct Procurement System.

Here, farmers can sell their Robusta green coffee bean (GCB) at current world-market price and get paid within eight hours of delivery.

In the stations, farmers can also get free coffee-farming literature such as planting and harvesting manuals or seek advice from Nestlé coffee specialists on how to improve their produce.

Through the years, more satellite buying stations have been in key coffee-producing areas in Iloilo, Isabela, Zamboanga, Cotabato, Agusan del Sur, Palawan, Tuguegarao, Solano, Bacolod, Bohol, Calamba, Alabang, and Cavite .

This month, Nestlé celebrates the 21st Anniversary of Nestlé satellite buying stations.

"The Nestlé satellite buying stations have contributed much to building and nurturing our partnership with Filipino coffee farmers through the years," says coffee business executive manager Bruno Olierhoek.

Olierhoek reaffirms Nestlé's commitment to Filipino farmers by further strengthening the company's coffee programs for farmers such as the Nestlé Experimental and Demonstration Farm (NEDF), which provides free technical training and the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative of Nestlé, a worldwide agricultural campaign that promotes coffee-based sustainable farming system among other programs.

The establishment of the Nestlé satellite buying stations is in line with the company's corporate principle of obtaining raw materials directly from its source—a practice that proves beneficial to coffee farmers, the coffee farming industry and Nestlé.

Here, the GCBs are first examined physically for imperfections. These are then roasted, brewed and tasted by certified coffee specialists. They rate its physical and cup-taste quality according to rigid standards in three levels with Grade 1 as the highest. Anything falling below Grade 3 is rejected.

At the Nestlé satellite buying stations, independent farmers with just one sack of coffee to larger operations with truckloads of coffee are guaranteed payment within only eight hours after delivery.

"We have to manage this good chain in the production of coffee, and make sure that every party in the chain sees sustainable development," says Olierhoek.

Investing in mental health is a smart business move

CHICAGO—INVESTING IN DEpressed employees—quickly getting them treatment and even offering telephone psychotherapy—can cut absenteeism while improving workers' health, a study suggests.

Many employers view mental health coverage as a financial black hole, but the study shows that spending money on depression is a smart business move, said researcher Dr. Philip Wang. Wang works for the National Institute of Mental Health, which funded the study.

Employees who got the aggressive intervention worked on average about two weeks more during the yearlong study than those who got the usual care—advice to see their doctor or seek a mental health specialist.

Also, more workers in the intervention group were still employed by year's end—93 percent vs 88 percent—savings that helped employers avoid hiring and training costs, the researchers said.

In addition, intervention employees were almost 40 percent more likely to recover from depression during the yearlong study, which is reported in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The researchers have not finished a formal cost-benefits analysis but early results suggest savings from more hours worked averaged to about $1,800 per employee. That far exceeds the program's initial $100 to $400 per worker cost. The benefits also likely exceed other costs, including drugs and therapy too, the researchers said.

"We knew before that treating depression makes good medical sense. This suggests that it makes good business sense," said Dr. Thomas Insel, director of the institute.

The percentage of workers who improved substantially—31 percent—or who recovered—26 percent—was low even in the intervention group.

That was comparable to the rate of improvement in other studies of people with depression.

The results are important because depression takes a hefty toll on the US workplace, affecting about 6 percent of employees each year and costing over $30 billion annually in lost productivity, said study co-author Ronald Kessler, a Harvard Medical School researcher.

Kessler has worked as a paid consultant for several drug companies, including makers of antidepressants.

Two other co-authors are employees of United Behavioral Health, the large managed-care company involved in the study, and own stock in UBH's parent company. The research compared UBH's usual mental health coverage with the experimental telephone-based outreach program devised for the research.

Because of the study's results, UBH began offering a similar program after the study ended more than a year ago.

Dr. Ken Duckworth, medical director of the nonprofit National Alliance on Mental Illness, praised the research as "a real advance."

"This study shows employers benefit" from paying attention to depression, Duckworth said. His group supports a bill before Congress that would require employers to offer mental health insurance coverage that is equal to that provided for physical illnesses, when policies cover both.

The study involved 604 white-collar and blue-collar workers at 16 large US companies. Employees included pilots, lawyers, bankers, truckers and janitors.

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(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

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- Must have excellent leadership and people skills
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2/F Mary Bachrach Bldg., cor. 25th & A.C.Delgado Sts., Port Area, Manila *(Behind the Manila Hotel)*
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Oct. 16, 8-5pm @Sports and Cultural Complex, Pili, Camarines Sur
Oct. 18, 8-5pm @G/F PESO DOLE Bldg. City Hall Cmpd. Naga, Camarines Sur
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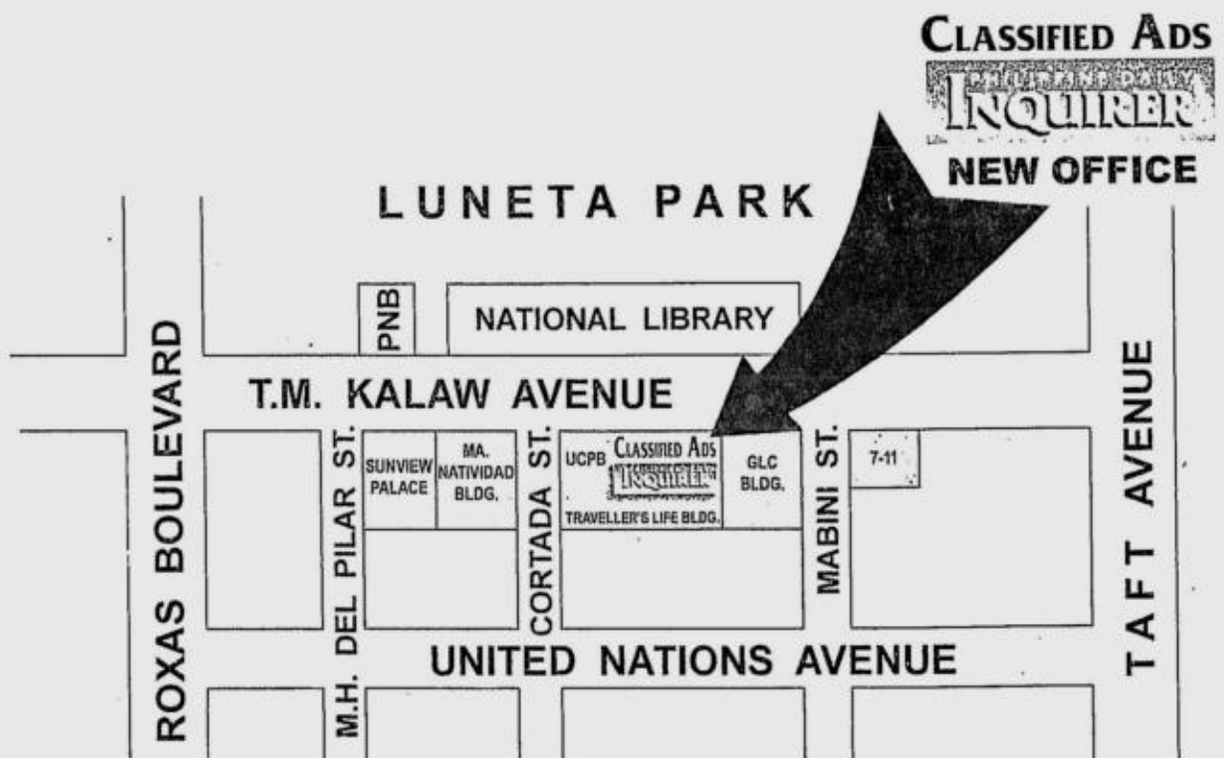

please call
523-5570 loc. 115 or 116

The project, "National Assessment on the State of Disaster Risk Management in the Philippines," funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) is in search of a **Disaster Risk Management Expert, Environmental Specialist, Disaster Risk Management Operations Specialist and Researcher / Writer.**

The project will review all related literature and relevant documentation on disaster risk management (DRM) / disaster management (DM) over the past 10 years (1997 – 2007) focusing on the disasters' major impacts and lessons learned, as well as, good practices as a result of the disaster occurrence. The baseline assessment of the DRM issues in the Philippines and the lessons learned will be the major inputs in the formulation of the comprehensive DRM Framework. The project will run for only 11 months.

Disaster Risk Management Expert / Team Leader (6 months spread over 9 months)

Responsibilities :

- Provide the methodology for the formulation of the DRM Framework, including the required assessment;
- Oversee review of relevant documentation of DRM in the Philippines and other countries in the Asian region as input into the Philippine DRM Framework;
- Lead multi-level discussions, consultation workshops and manage the gathering of relevant primary information on DRM through a consensus building consultative process;
- Prepare report of recommendations from the consultations as input into the formulation of the DRM Framework;
- Oversee drafting of a comprehensive DRM Framework for the Philippines considering the following parameters : (1) related on-going social and development processes in the Philippines; (2) dynamics of local and international organizations; and (3) existing national and local legislation / national frameworks and other relevant factors;
- Present working and final drafts to key stakeholders; and
- Manage and lead the consultant team to deliver the outputs.

Qualifications:

1. Expected to be well-versed on various aspects of DRM
2. Should have sufficient knowledge about DRM at the national and local levels
3. Should possess project management experience on DRM

Environmental Specialist (6 months spread over 9 months)

Responsibilities:

- Assist in the assessment of the previous and current DRM programs / interventions implemented by the government both at the national and local level, including identification of gaps and formulation of the necessary recommendations
- Conduct research on the DRM value if existing national environmental policies, programmes and projects and selected environmental initiatives as input to the DRM Framework;
- Consolidate, analyse and prepare findings of the research conducted;
- Formulate relevant DRM policy and programme recommendations taking into consideration the above findings;
- Prepare reports on procedural and policy recommendations; and
- Do other tasks necessary to realize the expected outputs of the Project.

Qualifications :

1 Shall have experience in environmental management, environmental policy formulation and programme / project implementation

Disaster Risk Management Operations Specialist (6 months spread over 9 months)

Responsibilities:

- Lead the design of the required consultations and workshops, to include the following : (1) preparing the agenda; (2) identifying the resource persons and allocating specific responsibilities; and (3) dealing with workshop logistics;
- Lead the organization of workshops, including : (1) identification of facilities and ensuring their appropriateness; (2) ensure that all participants are invited in a timely manner; and (3) encourage active participation during workshops;
- Facilitate the workshops, including : (1) ensuring each session is implemented in an appropriate manner, including availability of chairpersons, note takers, etc.; (2) facilitating the plenary sessions; (3) overseeing the working group sessions; and (4) collecting workshop outputs and helping synthesize the findings;
- Prepare workshop proceedings, containing the major findings; and
- Contribute inputs to the team leader for the necessary report preparation.

Researcher / Writer (6 months spread over 9 months)

Responsibilities:

- Conduct research on disasters that happened within the ten-year period (1997 – 2007) and major disasters that brought considerable impact to the country in terms of damages, economic losses and loss of lives beyond the ten-year period;
- Participate in the workshops, and in the process, identify the lessons learned;
- Consolidate, analyse and prepare findings on the lessons learned, good practices and identified gaps;
- Propose policy and programme interventions relevant to the above findings;
- Consolidate lessons learned, good practices, identified gaps and policy and programme interventions;
- Package the lessons learned report for publication; and
- Do other related tasks necessary to realize the expected outputs of the Project.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 19 October 2007. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, tel. # 901 0273

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until October 19, 2007.

CONSUELO FOUNDATION, an operating non-stock and non-profit organization that supports programs to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged children, women and families, is in search of qualified applicants for the following positions:

Program Support Specialist for Evaluation

- Graduate degree in a social science field
- At least 5 years experience in social development and in research work, particularly in the field of Needs Assessment and Evaluation, 3 years of which preferably in organizations that pursue the cause for disadvantaged children and women
- Advance computer skills
- Excellent communication skills in English and Filipino
- Innovative and Creative

Program Assistant

- College degree in a social development field
- At least 2 years relevant work experience
- Computer literate
- Excellent communication skills
- Very good coordination, interpersonal skills
- Training and Business background an advantage

Receptionist / Clerk

- At least 2 years of any collegiate course
- At least 1 year experience in performing general clerical, secretariat and office support functions
- Computer literate with good communication, coordination and interpersonal skills
- Output oriented

Qualified applicants are invited to send letter and resumé with photo not later than October 19, 2007 to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE UNIT
c/o Anne Marie G. Chanco
Director for Administration
27th Flr. Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas
Makati City
Tel. No. 8480601 loc. 111, Fax No. 8480553
Or email: jnepomuceno@consuelo.org

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

What's a gorilla doing on a tightrope? Turn to page 3 to find out!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 81

Finding Beauty

Text and photos by Dianne M. Villafuerte

WHEN WAS THE LAST time you looked at a native dog or cat and gushed over him or her?

Most of the time, we either pay them no attention or avoid them for fear of being scratched or bitten. The unfortunate ones find themselves either being made fun of, or worse, they become victims of cruelty and neglect. Those who are supposed to give these innocent creatures love and care are the very ones who abandon them and turn them away.

Fortunately for some of our furry friends, there are kind souls who are more than willing to take them in and call them family.

When Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) volunteer Gwen Protasio saw Cass roaming the streets of Pasig City, she immediately wanted to bring the dog home. "Cass was really mangy when I first saw her, I could not even tell what color she was because almost all her fur was gone," relates Gwen.

The proud human guardian of two purebreds and 3 *aspins* (*asong* Pinoy), Gwen encourages everyone to adopt abandoned or rescued aspins. "*Si* Cass *mas* friendly and loving than my other dogs," Gwen beams.

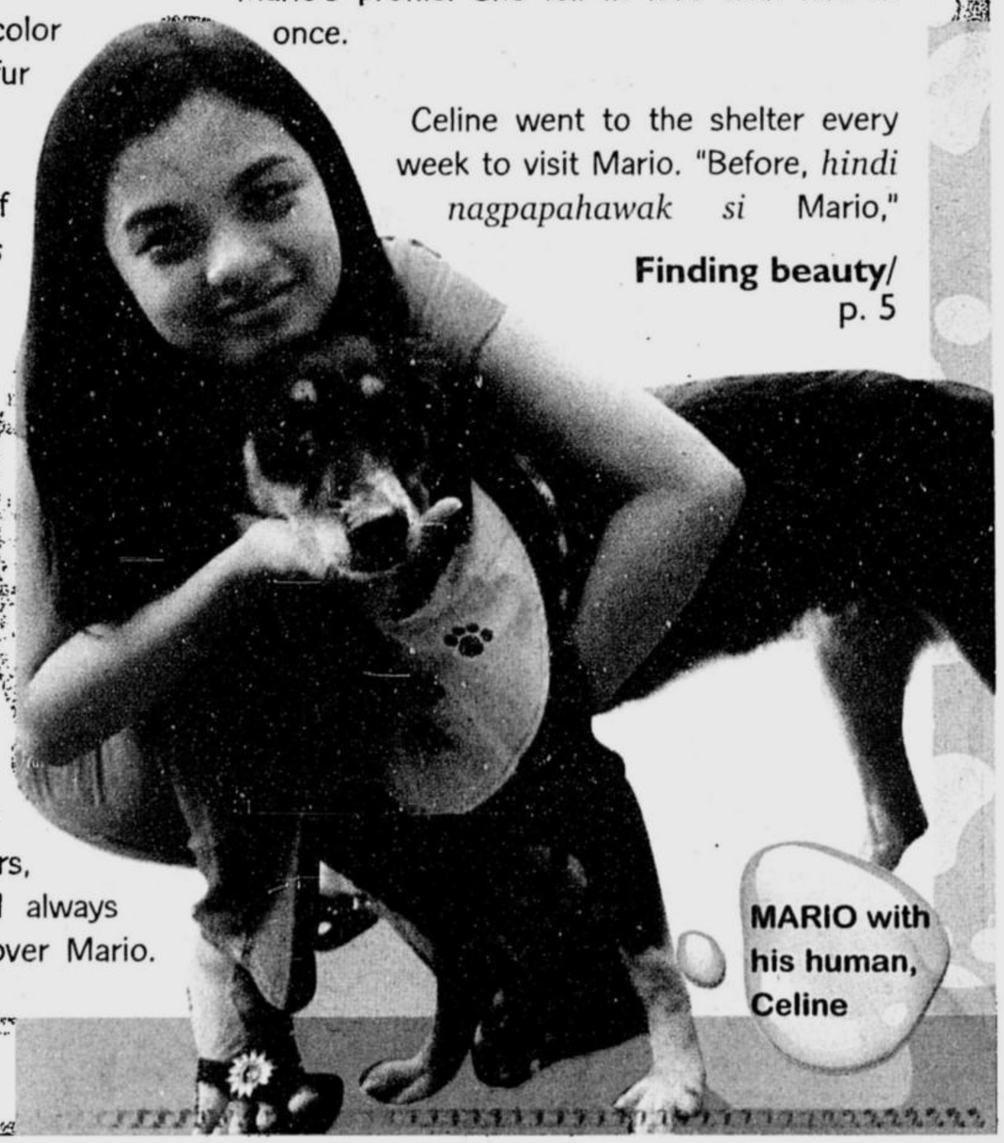
Seven-year-old Mario used to be known as the longest staying dog at the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center (PARC). For three years, possible adopters would always end up choosing another dog over Mario.

PAWS program director Anna Cabrera tells us that by Mario's second year at the shelter, he had stopped looking up whenever there was a visitor. Mario seemed to have given up on the possibility of having his own family.

Celine Quijano was looking through mefindhome.blogspot.com, a site put up by a PAWS volunteer, when she chanced upon Mario's profile. She fell in love with him at once.

Celine went to the shelter every week to visit Mario. "Before, *hindi nagpapahawak si* Mario,"

Finding beauty/ p. 5



MARIO with his human, Celine

Think Out Loud!

What do you want your human to do more often?

I wish they'd let me massage their tummies more often and vice versa.—**Tristan**, 1 year old

I wish they'd leave their slippers lying around so that I can chew on them and bring them wherever I go.—**Memnoch**, 2 years old

I want her to stay home more often so we can always play and go for walks! —**Ice Amboy**, 7 months old

I wish my human would take me out more often. Grassy places where I can sniff and explore would be nice.—**Oreo Cheesecake**, 4 years old

I wish Weiland would let me lounge around his room so I can listen to him play the guitar. I also wish people would stop thinking that I'm a bear.—**Gabby**, chowchow (not a bear), 4 years old

I want my human to give me belly rubs and bacon strips more often.—**Gogo**, 1 year old

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY LYRA A. GARCELLANO

DEAR JI,

THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL ISSUE. I LIKED THE ARTICLES, ESPECIALLY ABOUT BLOGGING AND WEBSITES FOR KIDS. I'M 8 YEARS OLD AND I STARTED A BLOG LAST SUMMER. I HOPE YOU CAN FEATURE STAR WARS, POKEMON AND TRANSFORMERS IN THE FUTURE.

MORE POWER TO YOU!

CHINO FRANCO
8 YEARS OLD
CAINTA, RIZAL

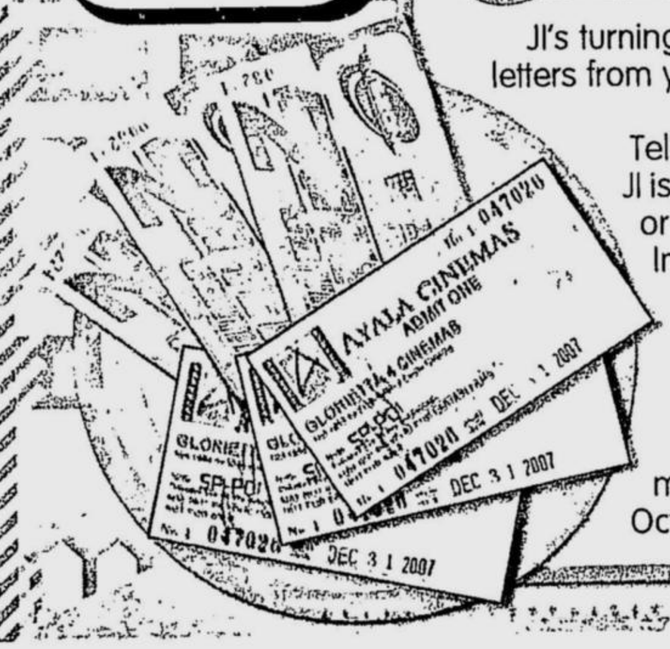
Thanks Chino, we would love to see your blog sometime! Please call Ate Dianne Villafuerte at 897-8808 local 340 to find out how you can get our thank-you gift.

Cooler by the dozen

JI's turning 12, and we'd like to get dozens and dozens of letters from you!

Tell us what your favorite stories are from any of the JI is sues that you've read in the past weeks, months, or even years. Send us a list of your TOP 12 Junior Inquirer stories, and tell us why your number one story occupies the top spot. We'll pick 12 winners and each will get three movie tickets to Glorietta 4 Cinemas and two Timezone game passes!

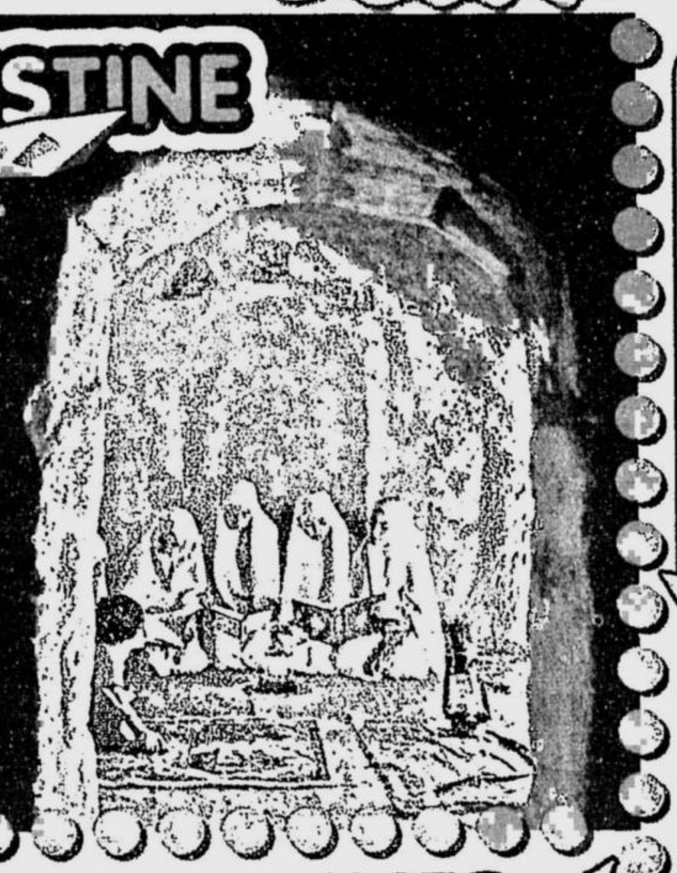
Only kids aged 7 to 15 may join the contest. E-mail all entries to ji@inquirer.com.ph on or before Oct. 17, 2007. We'll be waiting!



Salem, PALESTINE

Holy month

AT the ancient Al Sheik Nasrallah mosque, Palestinian girls read from the Muslim holy book Koran on the last week of the Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. During this month of worship and contemplation, Muslims fast during the daylight hours. **AP**



Wassup World?

Palawan, PHILIPPINES

Dolphin watch

MEMBERS of the World Wildlife Fund watch as a lone dolphin jumps up 10 kilometers off Puerto Princesa Bay in Palawan. Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn launched the Dolphin and Whale Watching project to attract more tourists to visit the area. **Ernie U. Sarmiento**

Baguio City, PHILIPPINES

A week's waste

WHAT would happen if all the trash you accumulate at home never gets collected? In Baguio City, the city government stopped collecting unsegregated trash for a week to force residents to segregate their garbage as part of a 10-year solid waste management plan. **Elmer Kristian Dauigoy/Inquirer Northern Luzon**

Nagoya, JAPAN

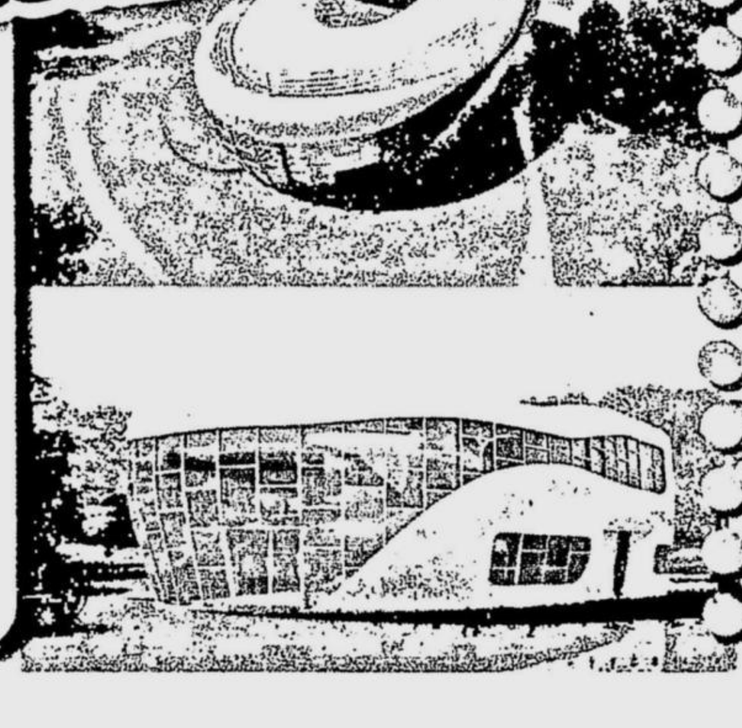
Walk this way

WHEN zoo keepers at the Higashiyama Zoo tied this rope, they thought gorillas would have fun hanging from it. But 10-year-old Western Lowland gorilla Shabani had other ideas—he took a walk instead! **AFP**

Seoul, SOUTH KOREA

News flush

NOW where have we seen that shape before? South Korean sanitation activists will mark the start of a global toilet association by lifting the lid on a lavatory-shaped home south of Seoul. **Reuters**



New Delhi, INDIA

Dental record

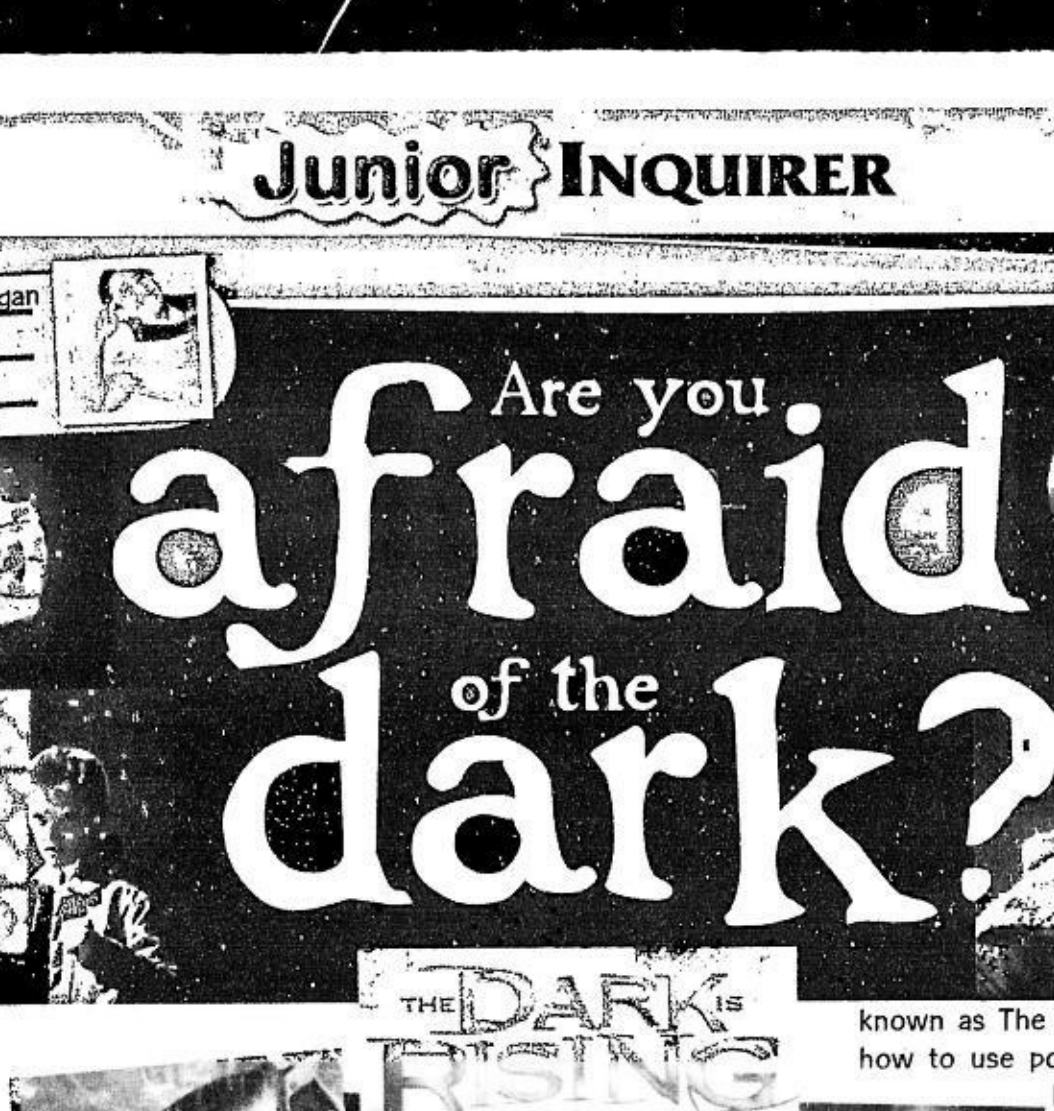
INDIAN school children brush their teeth together in an attempt to break the World Record for most people brushing their teeth in multiple venues. Over 150,000 students from over 350 schools participated to beat the current record of 41,038, which is held by the Philippines. **AP**

JI SNOOPS JI SNOOPS

By Lana Masilungan
11 years old
Muntinlupa City

Are you afraid of the dark?

AN UNWITTING young man with magical powers is suddenly thrust into the role of saving the world against the forces of evil. Frodo Baggins? Harry Potter? Nah. It's Will Stanton of "The Seeker: The Dark is Rising," the newest Hollywood adaptation of a children's classic.



"The Dark is Rising" is one of the books of The Dark is Rising sequence, a series written by Susan Cooper. It won the Newbery Award, which is like the Oscar for children's literature. The book was my bedside companion while I was recuperating from eye surgery last summer, and its fantasy setting (against my reality of post-surgery pills and eye drops), and light vs. dark plot ("I can see! I can see!") made me an instant fan. So you can just imagine my excitement to see it come alive on the big screen!

The film tells the story of 13-year-old Will Stanton who, unknown to him, is the last of a generation of warriors capable of thwarting the Dark force. So besides trying to fit in his new school, get along with his siblings, and catch his crush's attention, Will has to travel through time and find six magical signs to defeat the forces of the Dark. It helps that he has in his corner the remaining members of an ancient race, known as The Old Ones, who taught him how to use powers he never thought he had.

Will's endeavor is full of peril, wonder, trial, and reward, and this is where the movie gets its strength. Its visuals overpower the senses as we see Will starting huge, fiery explosions and wading through snake-filled chapels and Viking battlegrounds.

Sadly, the plot does not keep true to the original story and changes almost everything (which would have been okay if I haven't read the book). I would recommend watching this movie first before reading the book as the changes could be disappointing, despite the entertaining visuals.

If I'm taking something from this movie, it's the message that "even the smallest light can shine in the darkness." Since I'm dealing with siblings, school, and an unrequited crush too, I'm closing ranks with Will Stanton in finding my own self-confidence and place in the world through self-awareness, responsibility, and a little dose of "magic."

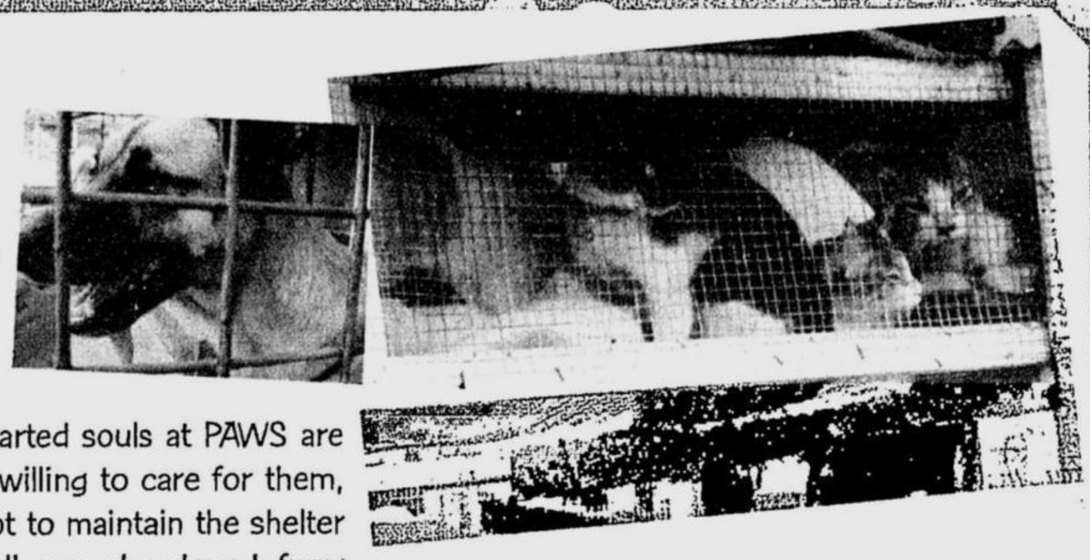
Finding beauty

(from page 1)

relates Celine. But Celine was determined to get Mario to trust her so she can take him home.

Anna says that when Celine put a rhinestone collar on Mario, they noticed a change in him—he seemed to regain his lost confidence. Today, Mario is Celine's constant and loyal companion.

Over a hundred dogs and cats at the PAWS shelter are waiting for a loving and warm home. Although the kind-hearted souls at PAWS are more than willing to care for them, it costs a lot to maintain the shelter and feed all our abandoned furry friends. That is why they are appealing to those who are thinking of getting a dog or cat to just adopt one from the shelter instead of buying from a pet store.



So what if these dogs and cats do not have fancy breed names, or come from a mall? They may look scruffy, their fur may not be shiny and glossy, they may even be missing an eye! But take a closer look and spend time with them, and you will realize that they are beautiful. And, they will shower you with unconditional love and loyalty for as long as they live.

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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

PUGAD BABOY

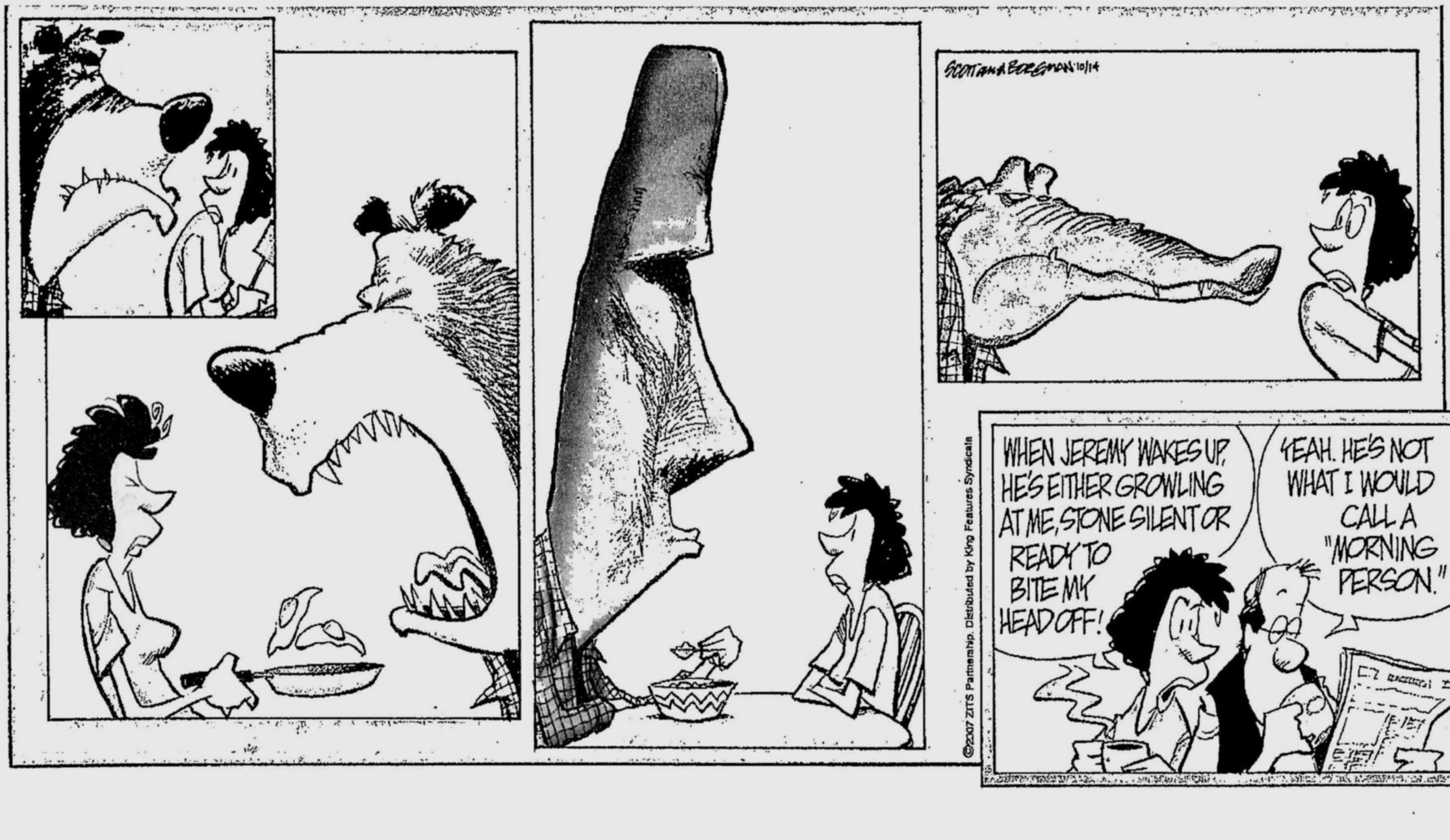
BY POL MEDINA JR.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

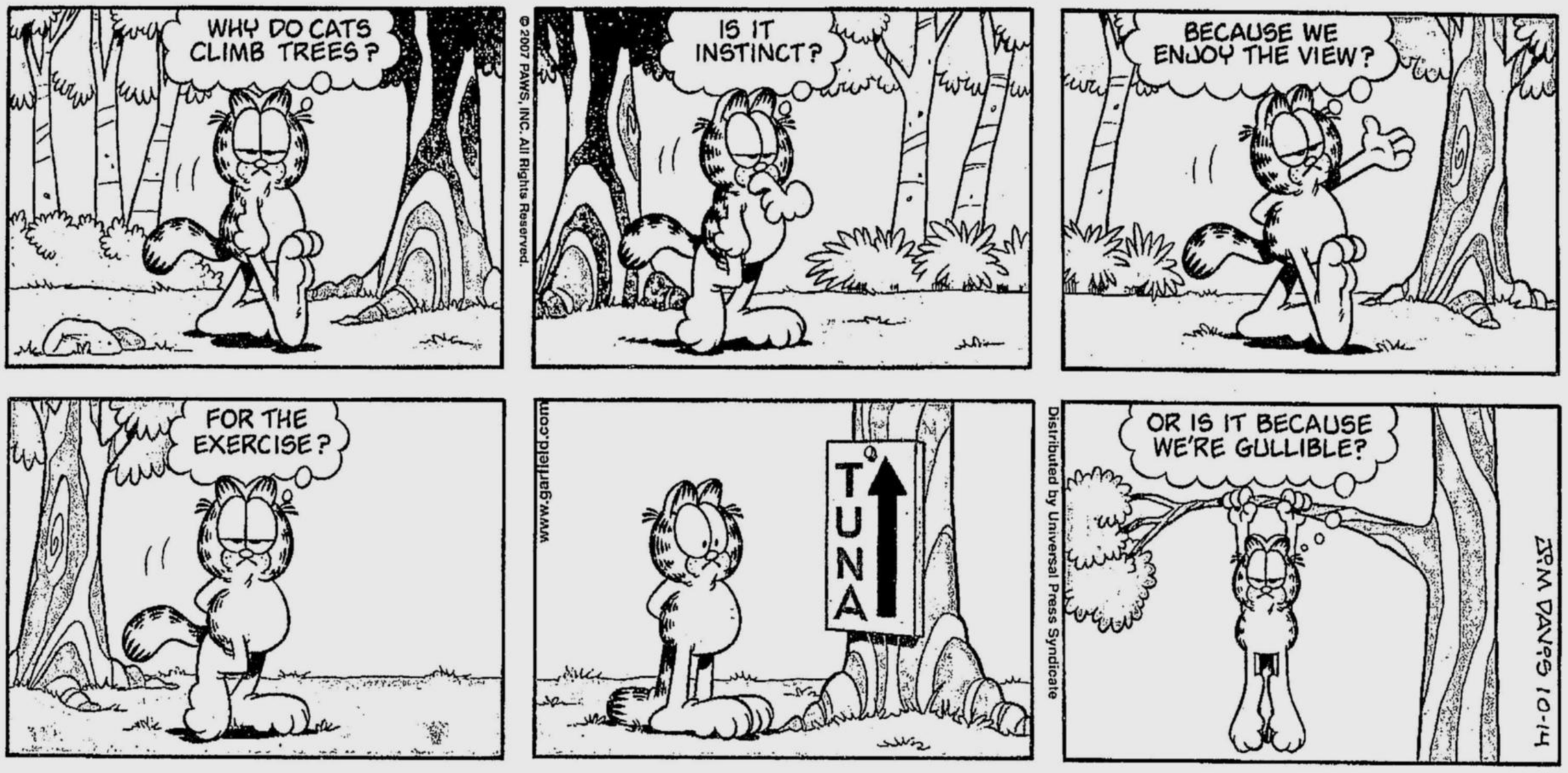
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*

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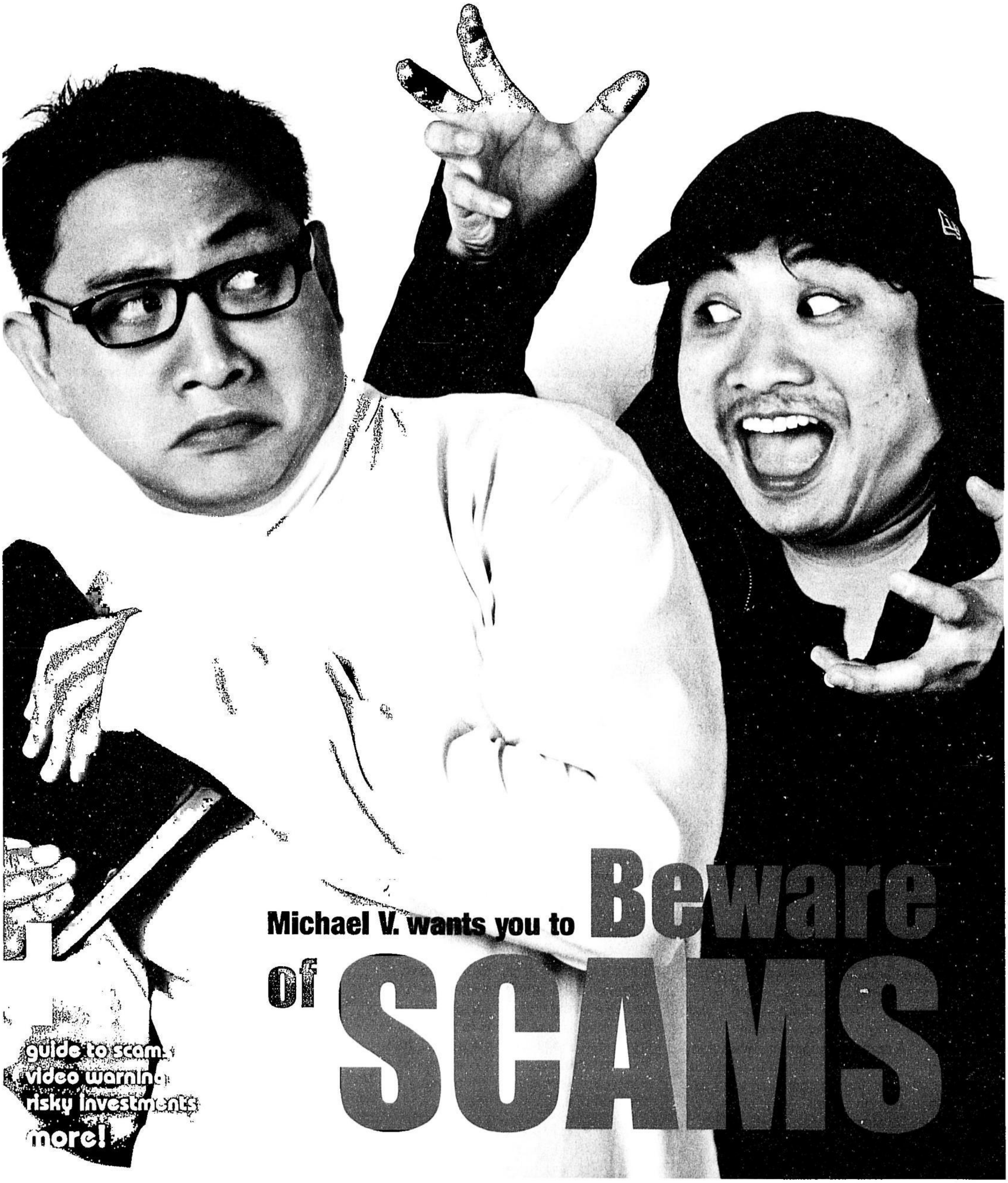
October 14, 2007



Michael V. wants you to Beware of SCAMS

guide to scam
video warning
risky investments
more!

By D.J. Yap

You Watch, You Safe

YouTube plays online cop through a video docu produced by the Makati police which shows the modus operandi of common criminals

THE typical urbanite knows that a certain level of street smarts is needed to survive an afternoon stroll around the metropolis without becoming another crime statistic.

But as the modus operandi of robbers, rapists, and con artists become more sophisticated, sometimes a little insider knowledge can help as well.

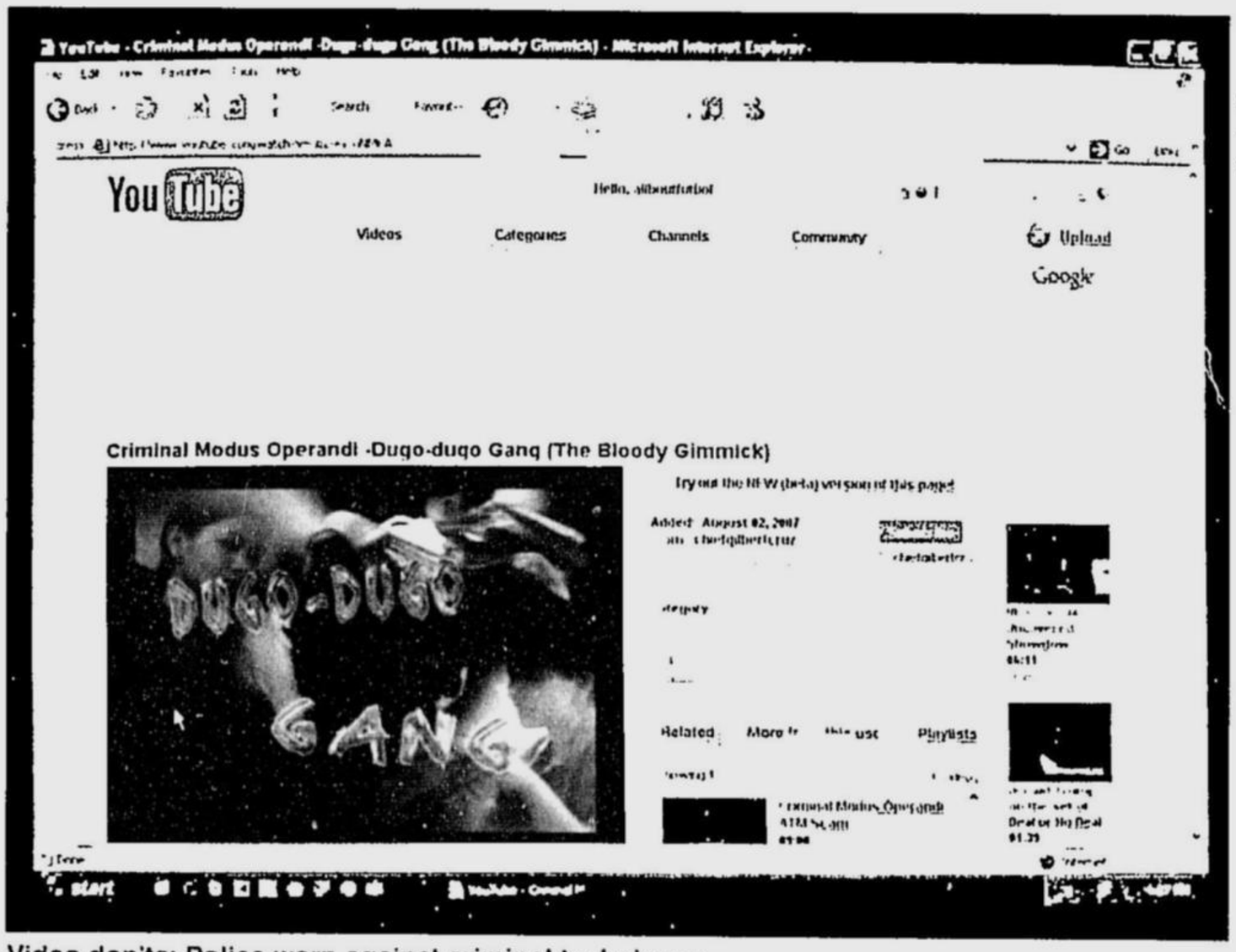
Thanks to the popular video sharing site, YouTube, Metro Manila residents can now learn a thing or two about how street criminals operate—and how to fight back.

In a bid to boost public awareness about crime syndicates, the Makati police have come up with an instructional video detailing the modus operandi of these shady gangs and uploaded them on YouTube.

Says Makati police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz, who oversaw the project: "Anyone can be a crime victim, that's our message. But we need not be a victim if we know what to expect and how to react." The first step to crime prevention is for people to know how these lawless elements operate, he adds.

On YouTube, just type "Criminal Modus Operandi" on the search engine and you'll get 15 video segments demonstrating criminal operations, from common street thefts, robberies and credit card scams, to more serious ones like kidnapping and rape. Each segment has a running time of less than 10 minutes.

In the segment on date rape, a policeman and a woman role-play the ways in which a man takes advantage of a woman, with each scene interspersed with such warnings as: "Never set out alone," "Avoid free drinks," and "Watch your drink always." A separate segment shows easy-to-learn moves that a woman may use to defend herself from an attacker, such as kicking the groin or striking the eyes.



Rudy Esperas

Video don'ts: Police warn against criminal techniques

In the segment on ATM scams, the video cautions people against using ATMS with suspicious devices such as magnetic strips placed near the cash dispenser, or external keypads with wires sticking out of them.

Online for two months now, the videos are a hit, says Cruz. As of Sept. 30, more than 18,000 have viewed two of the most popular segments on date rape and a robbery gang, while the other segments have recorded viewings between 2,000 and 12,000.

Cruz, who acted as narrator in the video, reveals that he has achieved minor celebrity status from the online material. "During my out of town trips, people would come up to me and say they recognize me from YouTube," he claims. "Bloggers keep sending me e-mail asking to be linked to the videos. Even overseas Filipino workers congratulated us in the comment section." Even without advertising, Cruz notes, people have come to know about the videos.

If the warnings seem convincing enough, credit it to the "real life" felons under detention, who acted out what they used to do in the streets, reveals Cruz. "We want these instructional videos to be more credible so we enlisted the help of the 'experts' themselves," says the police chief, adding that they did the shoot under the direction of a filmmaker friend.

Aside from the posting on YouTube, Cruz says they've also produced copies of the videos in DVD format. "We have distributed about 5,000 DVDs and more people are asking for copies," he reports, adding that the city government and some non-governmental organizations helped shoulder the cost of producing the videos. The entire project cost about P250,000 to complete, or P50 for every DVD, he adds.

The Makati police chief says the video documentaries will have regular updates "because criminal gangs often change their modus operandi so they won't get caught." He adds; "We will come up with an improved version. We might also come up with an English version so that even foreigners can understand the warnings."

Originally, the videos were only supposed to be burned on DVDs and distributed to concerned sectors in Makati City, says Cruz. But they decided to post them on the Net in the hope of reaching a wider audience. "I read somewhere that six out of 10 Filipinos now have access to the Internet," he notes.

Besides, Cruz adds, crime in the city's financial district is well under control, which is another reason not to limit the videos' distribution to the Makati area. "We're very peaceful here," he claims, adding with a laugh: "Actually I don't have much to do in Makati, which is why I found the time to do the videos." •

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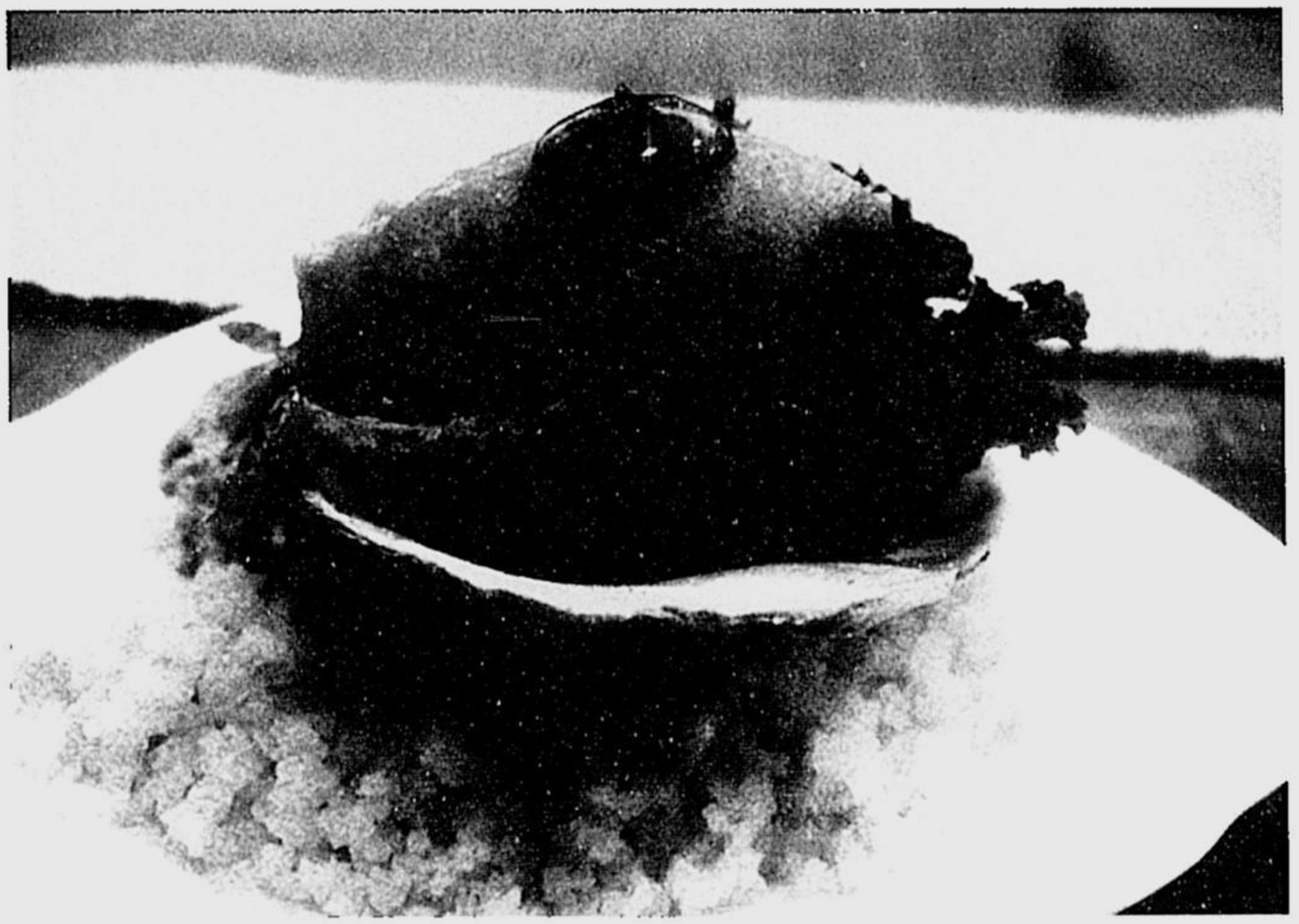
Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

A Real Steal

If you try hard enough, you might stumble upon an emerging chef who won't charge you an arm and a leg for a great tasting experience



In Yo Mouth: Wasabi Deep-Fried Oyster (above), Baked Unagi with Pan Seared Foie Gras (right)

"RIP off!" is one of the worst things that can be said about a restaurant.

At a Rockwell restaurant, I once found myself in Ally McBeal rage when I found that I had been charged P600 for nothing but sparkling water and tomato soup. "*Magnanakawwwww!* (thief!)" I screamed in my head as I handed the waiter my credit card.

At the other end of the spectrum, though, is the compliment that a restaurant is totally worth the visit even if the meal had cost you that month's rent. The meal would be comparable to purchasing art, each bite a part of the artist's handiwork. And you'd feel you were cheating the artist if you did not pay him the full value of his creation. So when I find a chef who makes the effort not only to heighten flavors but to add dimension to a dish, thus marrying technique with imagination, I find myself bowing with respect and gladly paying for the masterpiece.

The culinary galleries of established artists like Margarita Fores (Pepato), Ariel Manuel (Lolo Dad's), or Rolando Laudico (Bistro Filipino), demand an arm and a leg for their art. But if you scout well enough, you may stumble upon emerging culinary artists and not have to pay a month's salary for a great tasting experience.

I found one such emerging artist a few weeks ago in Quezon City. His name is Niño Laus and his work may be appreciated in a quaint little restaurant called In Yo off Katipunan. The place is small, formerly the Laus family home, able to seat only 25 guests downstairs and 12 on the second floor. It would be easy to eavesdrop on the next table. Nonetheless, the small, Asian-inspired space provides a momentary escape that prepares you for the night's main attraction, which is really the food.

I had the good fortune of selecting the Degustation Menu on my first visit, which comes with an *amuse bouche*. An *amuse bouche* (pronounced ah-moos-boosh) is a teaser before the show, a teeny tiny tasting plate to give you an idea of what's to come. Here, the tease comes in the form of a Wasabi Deep-Fried Oyster—and it will have you at hello. The oyster arrives in its shell only for purposes of presentation. It has in fact been separated from its original home to be housed anew in a wasabi-flavored crust. When you pop this baby in your mouth, it will crumble to usher the very soft oyster onto your tongue, bursting with warmth, only later revealing wasabi undertones. It's quite an original experience.

Then you have the opening act. That evening it was a "Salmon Belly Roll Stuffed with Crab Meat served with mixed greens in ginger ponzu dressing." Think of crab meat wrapped in seaweed wrapped in salmon wrapped in seaweed. I loved the detailing and the effort. Hard as this is to trump, however, I found that a salad I had on another visit, the Oven Baked Sushi Style Prawn Roll on greens, could steal its thunder. It is similar, but this time it's a solid crustacean creation, simply topped with Japanese mayo and lumpfish caviar, yet still exuding

remarkable character.

With such an impact, the evening could peak early, as it did on my first visit. The entree of Duck Breast with a side of Ratatouille failed to match the highs of the exuberant introductions, although it is a fine piece on its own. Or the fascination level may dip, if you order something less demanding of creativity, such as the Shiitake Mushroom Udon, although this is executed impeccably as well. But I found in later visits that there are items on the menu that can successfully sustain the initial high. The Oven Poached Lapu Lapu leaves the kitchen still wrapped in foil and cut open before you, delivering a taste that is as compact as it is warm. The Baked Unagi with Pan Seared Foie Gras plays on shades of saltiness unique in each subject on the plate: the foie gras on the left, the shiitake mushroom on the right, and the eel centerstage. I found it best to put a tiny slice of each together to appreciate the different levels of saltiness in one bite. Just lovely.

(continued on page 12)

By Mio de la Cruz

Street scams, fraud, and other con games

Beware these schemes. You could be the next victim

PDI Photo

Risky scenario: Crowded situations can be dangerous

WHEN something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Thus remind police officers at Precinct 7 in Camp Panopio, Quezon City, who note the growing number of people victimized by street scammers usually congregating around church grounds, college campuses, public markets, the MRT/LRT stations, malls, and other places where pedestrian traffic is heavy.

This maxim was totally alien to call center agent Ana Raymundo, 23, until recently when she lost P20,000 to a *budol-budol* gang that approached her at Farmers' Market in Cubao. The group offered to sell her two high-end Nokia N-series phones at P10,000 each. With an elderly couple—who just happened to be conveniently nearby—assuring her that they were among the sellers' satisfied customers, Ana entrusted her P20,000 in exchange for a few pieces of jewelry which the sellers said she could keep while they went off to get the cell phones. Of course, the sellers never came back, and the jewelry turned out to be fake and worthless. Fortunately for Ana, the elderly couple—a decent-looking 77-year-old widower and his 61-year-old live-in partner—were arrested and have agreed to cooperate with the police in identifying the other gang members.

As with the elderly couple, looks don't always give away miscreants. Some people think they can easily spot a con artist because he or she is someone they instinctively "don't trust." Lest we forget, the term "con artist" is short for confidence artist, people who gain our confidence just long enough to get their hands on our money. A good scammer can even make you believe that he's an old friend whom you haven't seen in years, an unfortunate soul who needs immediate assistance, a Good Samaritan out to help you, or an honest broker eager to share his good fortune.

A scammer is a master of disguise. If the racket, as some old folks would call it, involves banking, a multi-level investment scheme or job recruitment, he could be in a snappy *barong* or signature shirt, with a foreign-looking stranger in tow who is introduced as an investor or partner. He could likewise pretend to be a law enforcer (although sometimes they really are) and mulct victims for a supposed violation of some forgotten city ordinance. A scammer could also be an attractive woman in a bar who will later spike your drink with Ativan (a sleep-inducing pill) and cart away your wallet, cell phone, and other personal belongings.

So how do you avoid them? "If possible, don't talk to strangers," warns SP02 Celso Humilde, a veteran police investigator at Precinct 7. "Scammers strike when you least expect it and your chances of recovering what you've lost are almost nil because there are likely to be no witnesses to identify the wrongdoers." Nevertheless, Humilde encourages victims to report scam cases to the police so they could alert other possible victims.

A prospective victim is usually approached by a stranger who has an offer to make or is reacting to a random situation that the con artist has set up well ahead of time. One of the most common stings involves a man, woman, or even a child who pretends to find a valuable piece of jewelry, usually an expensive branded watch, on the street and feigns not knowing what to do with it. Bystanders, mostly his accomplices, would encourage him to sell it to the highest bidder and would make the initial bids until someone else—the unsuspecting victim—makes a separate bid. The independent bidder, of course, wins the bid and takes home the fake watch.

Did you ever wonder what happened to that person asking you for fare home to the province? Along Espana near UST in Manila, my daughter met a shabbily dressed man who asked her for "*konting barya*" (loose change) to add to his bus fare to Bicol. She was actually moved by the man's appeal for assistance so she gave him more than just loose change. The man lingered on for several more days in the same spot along España, but my daughter just ignored him. One year later, she saw the same person along Ayala Avenue in Makati asking the same favor from passersby. Emboldened by the company of friends, she approached the man and asked, "*Kuya, di ba kayo rin yung nasa may* UST? (Aren't you the same guy at UST?)" Visibly surprised, the man avoided her gaze and hurriedly moved away.

Another common street scam is the *salisi*, where the victims are usually business owners. A stall owner in Greenhills

(continued on page 6)

Street scams, fraud, and other con games (from page 5)

PDI Photo

Packed malls are a favorite fishing ground for scammers

recounted how two women pretending to be customers visited his pearl store. While he was showing three expensive South Sea pearls in white gold bracelets, two other customers came and diverted his attention. When he turned his attention back to his two earlier customers, he was shocked to find that neither the bracelets, nor the women, were there. *Salisi* gang members victimize not just big store owners, but even neighborhood *sari-sari* stores.

Dugo-dugo operators use the phone to ply their nefarious trade. The classic *dugo-dugo* case has a stranger calling a household and reporting that a member of the family, usually the breadwinner, has been hurt in an accident and needs cash for immediate medical treatment. Since the household has likely been cased previously by the scammer, he ensures that the call is made when only the house help is around. The help is then instructed to ransack her employer's bedroom for cash and other valuables for the supposed emergency expenses, and to turn these over to the caller at a designated place.

Aside from these three schemes, police have identified other scam operations, among them *tutok-kalawit*, *ipit*, and *laglag-barya*.

Tutok-kalawit involves a man or woman suddenly hugging a victim like they're old friends. In truth, the con man or woman is discreetly poking a sharp object on the side of the victim while quietly telling him to turn over his cash and valuables. *Ipit* gang members meanwhile operate in groups of four or five in crowded areas such as passenger jeepneys, railway stations, and malls, especially during sale season when people typically rush each other. Gang members shove or push a prospective victim to distract him or her, while their accomplice picks his pocket or slashes her bag.

The *laglag-barya* gang uses the same element of distraction, this time "accidentally" dropping coins or small bills near the unsuspecting subject. While the victim helps to scoop up the money, other gang members start picking his pocket or slashing her bag. In most instances, a gang member blends with the crowd and serves as lookout. Or as "stopper," when someone tries to run after his companions.

It does look like the world is full of unscrupulous folk constantly trying to get their hands on your money. On the one hand, it only means that in the eyes of con artists, you have cash to spare which they want you to share. On the other, it also confirms what these malcontents already know: greed knows no bounds, and given the right bait, even normally cautious people will yield to the temptation of earning easy money. •

Figure It Out

P6.47 billion: Estimated total losses of Philippine investors in the recent Performance Investment Products Corp. (PIPC) foreign exchange trading scam

22: Number of days it takes for investments to double, as promised by francswiss.biz and deutschfrancs.com

4.5 percent: Daily interest promised by francswiss.biz for every $1,000 investment

P100,000: Lowest investment in the Multitel pyramid scam of Rose Baladjay

50 percent: Return within 90 days, as promised by Charles Ponzi, after whom a type of illegal pyramid scheme has been named

$1 million: Ponzi's estimated income a week at the height of his scam

5 years: Ponzi's initial sentence for using the postal system to defraud people (sentenced in 1920 in Massachusetts)

1.5 million to 2 million: Estimated number of Filipinos who have fallen victim to pyramid scams as of 2003

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, United States Security and Exchange Commission

FEATURE

By Daxim L. Lucas

Uncovering Investment Schemes and Scams

Even the educated and well-heeled can fall prey to investment offers that promise huge returns for minimal risks

PDI File

No common cents: Dollars were the come-on in the PIPC scam

THE bad news is that investment scams are indiscriminate in choosing their victims.

Most scams leverage on people's greed, and greed afflicts people whether they are rich or poor, well educated or not, big businessmen, small entrepreneurs and office employees.

Indeed, a cursory survey of the people who have fallen prey to scams show that they represent virtually the entire social and economic spectrum of the country.

The good news, however, is that these scams are relatively easy to detect.

In fact, financial market and corporate regulators have been active in recent months in trying to educate the public on how to spot get-rich-quick schemes which invariably collapse resulting in millions of pesos—or dollars—worth of losses.
One popular scam in recent months is the foreign currency trading scheme, similar to the one used by the infamous Performance Investments Products Corp. (PIPC).

A joint statement released recently by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) detailed the warning signs that prospective investors should watch out for. "Any solicitation to engage in foreign currency trading and to commit funds for this purpose should be considered with extreme care and caution," the regulators said.

The following precautions should be considered before placing your funds with any foreign currency trading company.

1. Stay away from opportunities that sound too good to be true. Get-rich-quick schemes, tend to be fraudulent.

2. Avoid any company that guarantees large profits or those that promise little or no financial risk. Be wary and suspicious of companies that guarantee large profits and tout high performance but minimize the risks involved. In many cases, these claims tend to be false. Normally, the higher the promised return, the higher the risks involved. Be suspicious too of companies that downplay risks or state that written disclosure statements are only routine formalities imposed by the government.

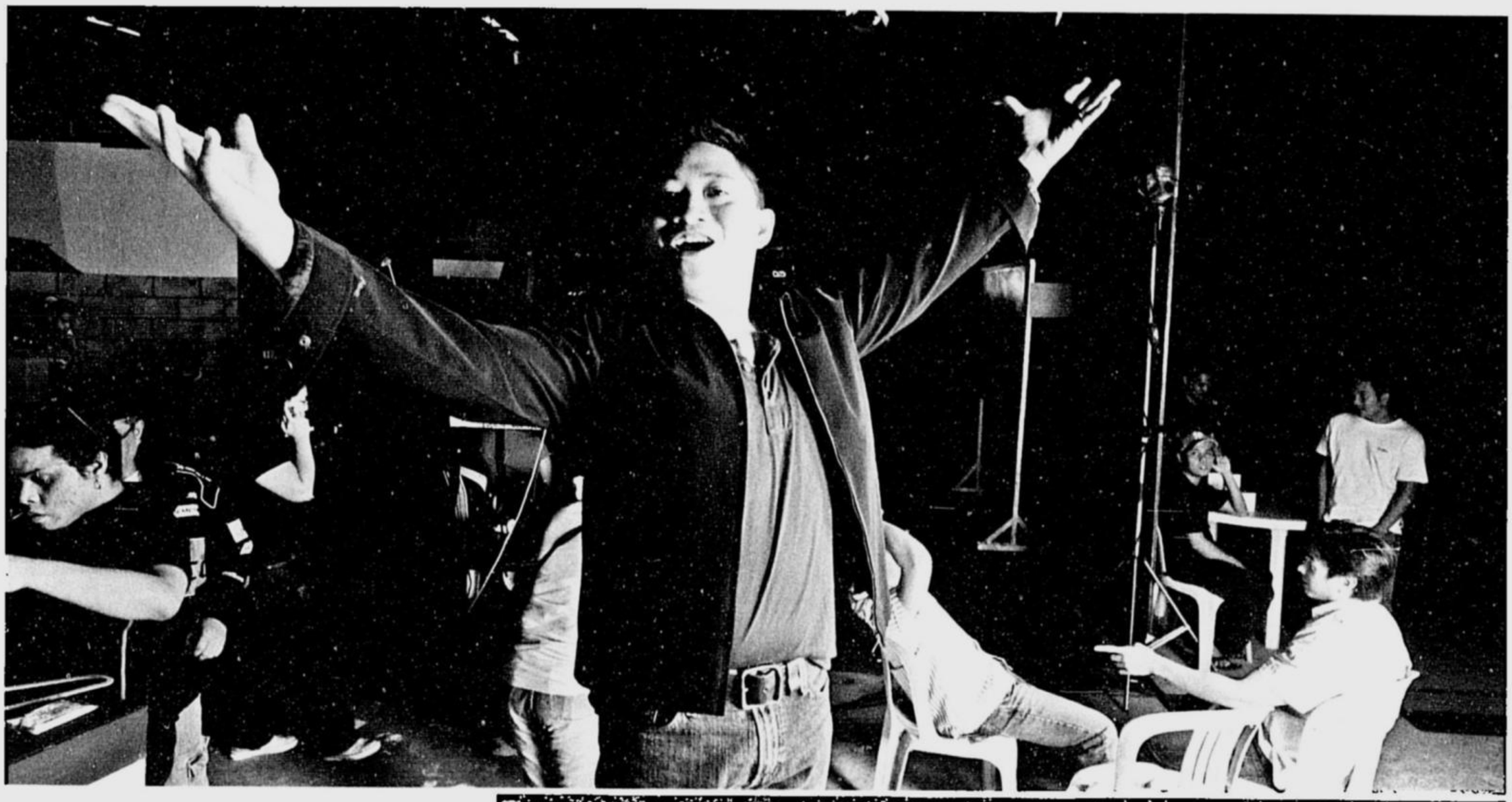
3. Don't trade on margin unless you understand what it means. Certain foreign exchange transactions can make you responsible for losses that greatly exceed any amount you deposited. Before trading on margin, make sure you fully understand what you are doing and are prepared to ACCEPT LOSSES that exceed the margin amounts you paid. In case of doubt, consult with reputable investment advisers or consultants and/or financial planners.

4. Be cautious when sending or transferring cash on the internet, by mail or otherwise. Be especially alert to the dangers of trading online; it is very easy to transfer funds online, but often next to impossible to get a refund. Be cautious of companies that offer currency trading online without providing information about their company, e.g. office address or other information identifying their nationality, contact numbers and other relevant data on their website. Be aware that if you transfer funds to those foreign or offshore firms, it may be very difficult or impossible to recover your funds.

5. Don't deal with anyone who won't give you their background. Try to conduct a background check of people running or promoting their company as a legit investment firm. Do not rely on the representations or promises of the company's employees. If you are not satisfied that the individual or company you're dealing with is legitimate and true, it is best to avoid any transaction with them.

(continued on page 14)

By Ruel S. De Vera



Ernie U. Sarmiento

The world according to Bitoy: Michael V. on the set

Michael V. Has A Prank For You

The ultimate Pinoy comedian of this generation reveals what lies behind his many faces, and how he puts one over people—on hidden camera, that is

HE may look like a funny *komiks* character brought to riotous life, but Michael V. is nothing like what you imagine him to be. Take a look, and what you notice are the wide, animated eyes, the mischievous smile, the rubbery facial expressions, the booming laugh. But flip the page, and what you find will surprise you.

For example, he's shy. No, really. "By nature, *ganoon ako*," he says earnestly, standing on the set of "Bubble Gang," GMA-7's highly rated comedy sketch show. "*At yung mga* characters *ko*, they actually help." When he assumes a character's personality, it helps him overcome his inhibitions, he says.

The very word "inhibitions" seems to be at odds with the wild success the 37-year-old Michael V. has earned as a constantly morphing yet impishly intelligent comedian. Known for his ability to play multiple characters with prosthetics and performance, as well as his affably funny anthems, Michael V. comes from a background that is nothing to laugh about.

Born Beethoven del Valle Bunagan on December 17, 1969, he gained the nickname "Bitoy" in high school after mimicking the voice of the late comedic actor Bentot. His family was "very, very poor," he recalls, adding that they lived in a Taguig tenement building for some 20 years as his father Cesar, who did odd jobs, and his homemaker mother Melba struggled to provide a life for Bitoy, the younger of two siblings. Prior to taking up Mass Communications at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, he worked for his uncle's exporting company where he designed prototypes for seasonal decorative items. "That was my first job," he says.

It was after Filipino rapper Andrew E. commandeered radio with his unusual anthem "*Humanap Ka ng Panget*" that Bitoy found a perfect opportunity to make a change. A gifted singer with an irrepressible sense of humor, he recorded a rejoinder, "*Maganda Ang Piliin*" for OctoArts Records, adopted the stage name "Michael V." (from Michael Jackson and his middle name del Valle) and jumped, sneakers-first, into the rest of his life.

But rapping did not contain Bitoy's exuberance for long. He joined the cast of the ABS-CBN 2 game show "Ready, Get Set, Go!," and got into the seminal ABC-5 gag show "Tropang Trumpo." It was here that his career really took off. "That was my big break," Bitoy recalls. The show combined music, witty comebacks and skits in a way that came oh so naturally to Bitoy, who suddenly was better known as a comedian than as a rapper.

That set the stage for his big move, assuming the post of Creative Director on a new sketch comedy show on GMA-7, "Bubble Gang." Twelve years, monster ratings and several awards later, Bitoy still holds down the fort at "Bubble Gang." It was on this show that Bitoy displayed his mastery of parody, impersonating everyone from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GM Hey) to Celine Dion (Celine Din 'Yon). Perhaps the most impressive character he crafted was the toupee-topped, overbite-featured Junee Lee, who happens to be the most inept talk show host of all time. Bitoy achieved a new level of meta-reality TV when Lee, armed with inappropriate cue cards would attempt to interview an actual guest, who had no idea what Bitoy would say. "The one with Pops Fernandez

is my favorite," he says. He is also a regular on the noontime staple "Eat Bulaga!" and provides the voice for the dog Fulgoso on "Marimar."

Where Bitoy lifted his comedic chops to an entirely new level is on his other pet project, "Bitoy's Funniest Videos: *Yari Ka*!" Aside from wheeling out viewer videos from around the world, Bitoy sets up impressive elaborate practical jokes, going through mindboggling efforts, just to get a preciously unscripted reaction from unsuspecting subjects. In one perfect example, Bitoy dressed up as a *manananggal* (a half-bodied flying vampire) in bed, complete with fangs, flapping wings, and a midget dressed as the creature's lower half walking around the room, just to put one over a distressed paramedic. "That is in my top ten," Bitoy says. That sketch, together with several others, can be found on YouTube as ample proof of Bitoy's prowess at practical jokes.

Jim Guiao Punzalan

Jim Guiao Punzalan

The many faces of Michael V.: Talk show host Junee Lee (top, left) is his all-time favorite character

It takes much meticulous planning to stage these stunts. To make sure it works, Bitoy says they are merciless from the very start. "*Yung* scenario, *binabaril na namin sa umpisa pa lang. Siguro sa tagal na ring ginagawa namin 'to, alam na namin yung kaduda-duda at hindi kaduda-duda. Pag masyadong maraming* questions about the set-up, *hindi na namin tinutuloy* (We attack the scenario right away. We've been doing this for so long we know what works and what doesn't. And if there are too many questions about the set-up, we don't do it)," he says. The effects, costumes and props are scrutinized. "*Yung* prosthetic, *dapat* believable. *Pagka ginawa namin at mukhang hindi* believable, we find ways *para hindi matitigan ng tao, para hindi ma-*realize *na peke* (The prosthetics have to be believable. Even if it's all in place, if it doesn't look real, we try to keep people from staring at it and finding out it's fake)."

Experience has given him the gift of gut feel when it comes to what the cast can pull off and what it can't. Of Filipinos, Bitoy says that "*mas malaking* percentage *yung madaling lokohin, pero biruin siguro yung tamang* term (A larger percentage can be easily tricked, though the right term may be 'teased' not tricked)."

The laughs never come easy, and get even harder now that so many people know what he looks like. Sometimes they even recognize him purely from his voice. There have been set-ups which were blown early, for example. "Once I'm recognized, we drop the whole thing. Or if we see the reaction of the first victim— '*Uy, medyo* extreme—we no longer go through with the second victim." As expected, some get angry. "But when I introduce myself, it's fine," he adds.

That doesn't mean he takes it easy. On the "Bubble Gang" set, he pores over scripts and looks closely at the monitors, surrounded by lights being angled right, and props positioned correctly. He is always perfectly in place and right on cue. For Bitoy, the constant staging of one sketch after another means he has to come up with even more ideas. He puts up with arduous hours spent in the makeup chair as he is fitted with prosthetics. As someone who can write, disguise, quip, sing and even dance his way to a laugh, Bitoy is the best young comedian in the industry today, certainly the most gifted one since Dolphy and Tito, Vic and Joey. As a result, he's constantly trying out jokes—and new things.

Having appeared in movies such as "Fantastic Man" and the "Enteng Kabisote" series, Bitoy is excited about a movie to be directed by the venerable Peque Gallaga, and produced by TAPE Inc. bigwig Tony Tuviera. As expected, it'll be one with Bitoy playing multiple characters. Never one to stop working on his dreams, Bitoy has big plans indeed: "I want to direct and produce a movie of my own."

Originally aired on "Bubble Gang," Bitoy's hilarious sonic spoofs were gathered and released last year as the best-selling "The Bubble G Anthology." The creator of such side-splitting songs as the masochistic "*Sinaktan Mo Ang Puso Ko*" and the hilarious "*Hindi Ako Bakla*," Bitoy has plans for more musical adventures, including one which may come as a surprise. "I have a lot of compositions that don't suit my character, but I want to release them so people can see another side of me," he says. And there's more: "Eventually, I plan to put up a band. *Kasi mahiyain ako, hindi ako makakantang mag-isa, gusto ko may kasama ako* (I'm so shy, I can't sing by myself. So I want others to sing with me)."

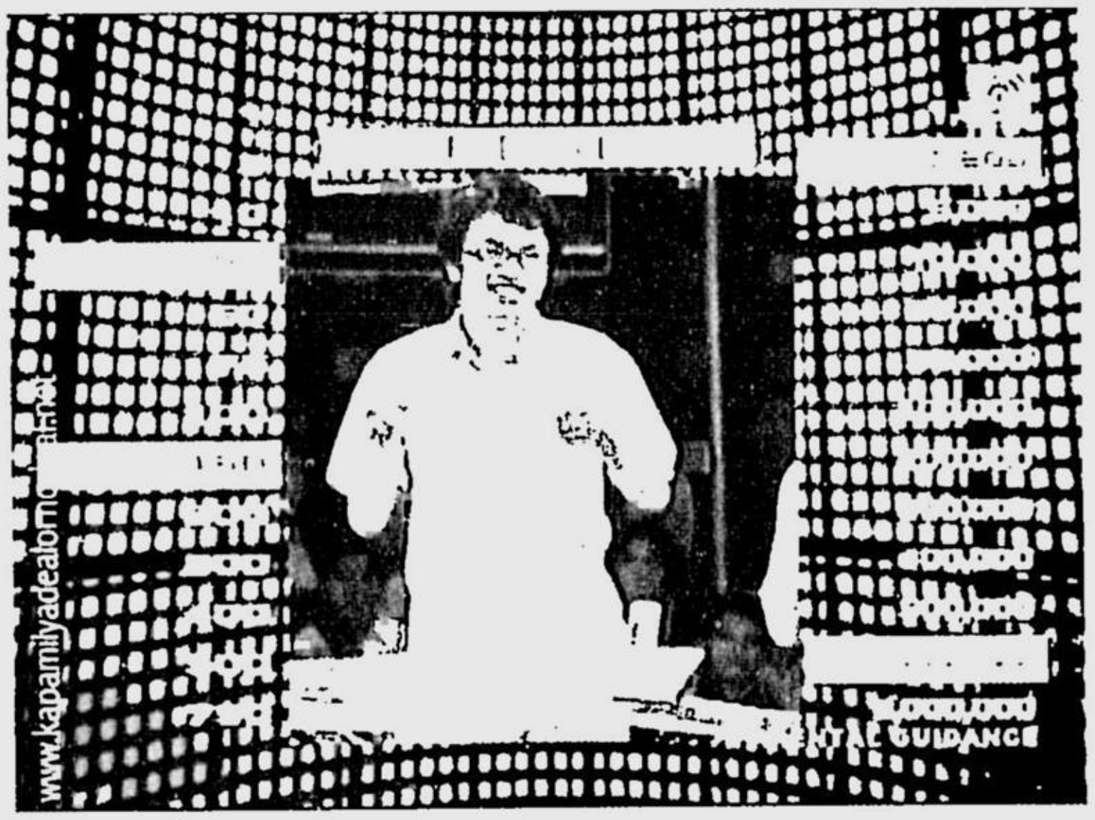
In one sense, he truly isn't alone anymore. He first met his wife Carol in college, and later married the then-Philippine Airlines flight attendant. They have three children: Milo, 13, Yanni, 9, and Migo, 4.
This comic actor is seriously into photography and collects Star Wars action figures. In fact, Bitoy has a dream of someday publishing an illustrated children's book. He'd also like to exhibit paintings and photographs. "I want to travel around the world and take pictures of the places I travel to," he says.

Surveying the distance from that tenement building to the studios he now works in, the good-natured trickster says one needs to keep moving, to keep going higher and to keep evolving. "You could never, you should never, be satisfied with what you're doing," the man who is both throwback and cutting-edge, says in all seriousness. "For me, personally, I haven't seen the leap from what I usually do. In our industry, *mahirap yung maging* stagnant. *Hindi ka papansinin* (It's difficult to remain stagnant, no one will pay any attention to you)," he says, before going off for the next scene and his latest transformation. •

By Tony M. Maghirang

Are Pinoys Too Trusting, Too Greedy, or Both?

A sociologist claims that scams flourish because we're too trusting, rely too much on family ties, watch too many TV game shows, and believe in instant gratification



Trust in TV: Game shows capture imagination and desperation

"THERE's one born every minute," circus owner P.T. Barnum is believed to have said of suckers. Indeed, with tabloid accounts, neighborhood gossip and friends telling similar stories, one wonders why scams still continue to claim victims.

That's because victims don't know any better, says Police Superintendent Rogelio "Jojo" Rosales Jr., presently station commander of Ermita Police Station 5. Add to that the fact that con artists know just how to exploit the "quick buck" mentality of ordinary citizens, says this officer who has 23 years of experience on the ways of street crimes and petty rackets.

Human nature also has a lot to do with crime statistics, notes P/Supt Rosales. "Let's face it, street scams like *budol-budol* or *pulot-pulot* capitalize on greed. It's human nature to be attracted to the promise of an instant windfall, even one coming from a patently ridiculous proposition. And the dirty deal gets done so fast that the victim won't even know, until it's too late, that a scam has been pulled on him."

The few cases filed at the police station also show that victims do not fall under the generic classification of "*tatanga-tangang probinsiyano* (country bumpkin)." Even city slickers and working professionals fall hard on a scam.

"To limit the chances of getting ripped off big time on the street, don't talk to strangers," advises the police commander. "Don't get too friendly with people you've met for the first time. They may just be taking you for a ride. In the end, you may lose more than the money or jewelry that's been sweet-talked out of you."

The sweet deal that's too good to be true is one way of bringing down our natural distrust of strangers, observes Dr. Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu, chairperson of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Ateneo de Manila University and president of the Philippine Sociological Society. The doctor argues that people build trust based on shared values, similarities, and common experiences. Filipinos trust family, relatives and friends above all. "We celebrate the fact that we as a people are family-oriented, *kapamilya o kapuso!*" she expounds.

"This notion is true especially for older people and those living in the rural areas. They still have the idea that family and everybody else are their friends," says Akpedonu.

She adds, "But as society becomes more complex, we encounter people who are no longer part of the traditional notion of family or friends. And yet, some people still accommodate strangers to a fault because they transport their old trusting ways into a new changed setting. They have to understand that the bigger, wider world is intruding into their lives and that not everyone is family, relative or friend."

This has both positive and negative consequences. Akpedonu contends, for instance, that if our leaders would think only of the good of their families and friends, then they would leave out the rest of society.

On the other hand, extension of familial trust towards strangers makes gullible citizens easy prey to even the simplest scams. Some cons start out with the perpetrator introducing himself as a province-mate struggling in the big city or having close ties with the rural community where the prospective scam victim is from.

This may be one reason why the stereotypical *"tangang probinsiyano"* has become constant fodder in stories about urban scams and con games.

The ingrained trust in others is worsened by some store of cunning that people have as a survival mechanism. These two factors guarantee that a scam can be sprung successfully.

To launch a scam, the con artist has to first gain the victim's attention and trust. A wad of cash and the glitter even of fool's gold are enough incentives for natural-born greed to surface in any decent individual.

Akpedonu also points to the social environment as a motivation for people to take the easy way to earn money, which often manifests as a blatant expression of greed. She notes, "Society itself celebrates instant gratification. You don't have to work hard to make money. Just buy a lotto ticket or queue up for noontime game shows and money is right there. Money seems available and accessible!

"People are not naturally greedy. TV game shows and illegal gambling, however, are social structures that support the opposite view."

The demands of today's globalizing society, which requires people to meet others outside their circle of trust in order to function well, should also be considered. No man is an island, especially in the networked present. This

(continued on page 12)

By Lani T. Montreal

'My Ovary, My Worry'

People need to understand that it's personal. When a married woman in her forties has no child, it's probably by choice. Or she can't have one. So tread lightly.

Sensitive space: Pregnancy can be a choice or a crisis

A FLEETING pregnancy, the doctor called it. Sigh. Must have been going through it for the last three years—making babies, some of whom don't even make it past the first month. In the meantime, I see babies everywhere: on Ainslie street, women trying to rein in two, three toddlers while pushing another in a carriage, maybe even having one more on the way; a teen mom in the washroom at Borders changing her child, herself still a baby; at the Kimball station, on the Lawrence bus, babies, babies, babies everywhere, even in my sleep. They haunt me, taunt me, reach out their tiny hands, smile, look at me with their big puppy eyes as if they know this about me—that I am haunted—that I have ghosts of babies inside me that never came to be.

My friend Riza calls it a window of opportunity. I call it a crack, a sliver of a chance. What did I expect? I am not Holly Hunter, having her twins at 48 like this is the most natural thing in the world. I never wanted them, never even thought I'd want to have anything to do with them. Fine, so I adore them, as long as they don't cry or pee or poo or whatever it is babies do to unknowingly annoy you. Yes, I thought they're the most wonderful thing, too, as long as they weren't mine! I'd give a wet child to her mother faster than you could say tickle-me-Elmo.

I remember in college, when my friends were all plotting a future with one or two babies in some imaginary crib even before they could find a suitable donor or life partner if you will, I was thinking of all the possible arguments not to have one. Marcos was still in power then, and I was a budding activist, learning about the necessity of inverting the triangle, going to immersions in the mountains among indigenous people or among the urban poor and fisher folk, face to face with all the reasons why it was not fair for a child to be born. After all, human beings are the only species who would kill and oppress their own kind to gain or maintain obscene wealth and power.

And then I turned 40. I've regained my faith in "man"kind, both the gender and humanity. I don't know what it was. It couldn't have been my biological clock; I thought that one had lost its tick way back when. I just felt ready somehow. I wanted to have a child with my gay partners G and K, and we started talking about the logistics of it. But before we could even execute the deed, whether it was to be with a turkey baster or other unconventional means, I fell in love with a man. Of course when I say that, he corrects me and says, "not just a man, The Man." What can I say, the man made me laugh. And he is great with kids.

Three years and a few miscarriages later, we're still trying. Baby showers still make me wanna puke (not that they didn't before), and seeing pregnant acquaintances still stir up feelings of inadequacy somehow. Of course, it doesn't help when old worn aunties come up to you, touch you with their wrinkly hands, hands that have nurtured babies into toddlers—their own and their children's—and whisper in your ear, "Nothing's quite like having your own," when you so much as suggest that hey, we're open to adopting.

I never thought I would one day become an expert on the issue of infertility. I ought to write an article about it and I think I will. Perhaps when I've gotten over it, either physically or emotionally (or yes, even mentally). Sometimes, the stress is more external than internal, really. It's insensitive relatives asking you when you're going to have a baby like it's within your control. Like you can take some magic pill and be pregnant the next day. (Believe me, I've tried some.) Or friends with kids who just don't think before opening their mouths. I know they only mean well but, as they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

My friend Anna sent me a URL of an article by an author who expresses the same sentiments, and she has come up with a quick retort to such people: "Hands off my belly!" Well, I came up with a few of my own: "Don't query us about our uterus"; "My ovary, my worry"; or "Let's see, when I have sex with my spouse tonight, there's a 50-50 chance I will be pregnant next month (maybe less), and then another 50-50 that I will keep it." Or here's a nasty one: "Womb-doom to you, too."

People need to understand that it IS personal—that when women past 30 have no kids of their own, then maybe it's an individual choice or they simply couldn't have one. So do tread lightly. After all, they don't come up to you and ask what it is you had to give up in order to give your child/children a decent life, do they? Ouch. Now that hurt, didn't it? •

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

4	2			8	3			
7	3						1	
					6	2		
						7		6
6				3				9
1		2						
		8	2					
	5						8	4
			8	7			5	2

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ **Answers on PDI Oct. 15 issue**

Answer to previous puzzle
PDI, Oct. 13

7	8	3	5	2	1	9	6	4
4	1	2	9	6	8	3	7	5
5	9	6	3	7	4	1	2	8
9	4	7	2	8	3	6	5	1
8	6	1	7	9	5	4	3	2
2	3	5	4	1	6	8	9	7
6	5	4	1	3	7	2	8	9
3	7	9	8	4	2	5	1	6
1	2	8	6	5	9	7	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Erratum:
In the article "Auction Heroes," (**SIM**, Sept. 30, 2007) the eBay I.D. of Czarina Flores was incorrectly given as czari. Her correct eBay I.D. is czayuri. **SIM** regrets the error.

A Real Steal (from page 4)

Dessert is less high impact, bringing the show to a gentle, gradually tapering ending instead of a bang, but the commitment to creativity is nonetheless present: blueberry cheesecake plays with tofu while a creme brulee plate offers an extra two twists to the classic—coffee and chocolate flavoring.

Wining is not the practice, although basic reds and whites are available should you please. The service staff could be provided more knowledge on the contents of the plates they set on the table, which they should share with pride, given the talent of the chef, instead of resorting to a sad "*ewan* (don't know)" when asked. Nonetheless, elegant touches are present everywhere: from the furniture, such as the beautifully converted sewing machines, to the food, like the sun-dried tomatoes in the tomato soup. The overall experience translates to a wonderful escape and for just P350 for the main courses on average (the degustation menu is around P900 exclusive of tax), the meals are a steal.

The biggest revelation of In Yo is that the chef is just a kid: Niño Laus is only in his twenties. So you should try him out now before he hits his prime and starts charging us the digits he deserves. •

In Yo. #66 Esteban Abada St., Loyola Heights, QC. (From Katipunan, turn right on McDonalds, right on E. Abada (first corner). T 928-6459 M 0927 874 2611 E-mail in_yo06@yahoo.com . Major credit cards accepted. Parking available inside. Reservations not required but highly recommended. Handicap accessibility on the ground floor.

Are Pinoys Too Trusting, Too Greedy, or Both? (from page 10)

increases the risk of being the object of a scam.

Says the Ateneo sociologist: "You have to go out and engage the wider society to survive, but you have to be street smart to protect yourself from harm. Being street smart means you are able to engage others in different ways."

And there lies the rub, she adds. "You can only be street smart if you become a citizen, a person who does not think only of himself. You also need to learn from experience the values of a certain group or community that you find yourself in. Then you need to reflect on your experiences. Sadly, we are a country that doesn't think too much of what has happened. We don't process good or bad things that happen to us."

She adds that it helps if the social environment enables us to think beyond immediate family and friends. It allows us to perceive the similarities and dissimilarities of people in our midst. Such perception may help weed out deceitful individuals in any crowd.

Mass media and schools can help us think beyond ourselves as well. In the first place, the information they provide can guide us in the methods of a con even before it gets going. Read, watch or listen closely to the news. Forewarned is forearmed.

In connecting with unfamiliar faces,

Akpedonu: "Be street smart."

Akpedonu warns, don't let your survivor instincts down. There may be more to the sweet talk that's being rammed down your gullible self. It's your call. •

By Sylvia G. Hubilla

Family Ties on the Web

The seemingly cold world of complicated technology has brought back the warmth of family in an empty nest

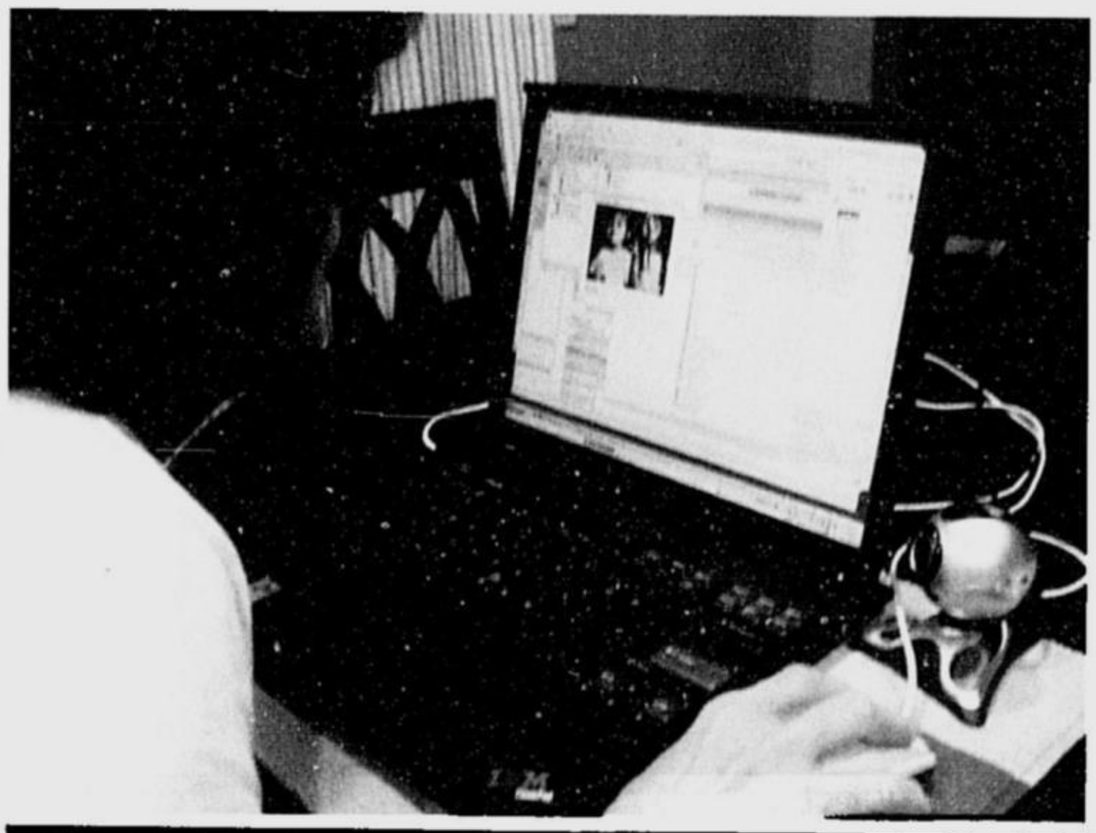
CALIFORNIA, USA—The little boy picks himself up on unsteady feet and takes a few unsure steps, before he falls again. My eyes light up with joy and I break into a smile as I look at my youngest grandson, Nicco, learn how to walk.

"OMG! (read Oh my God!) He's walking!" I type into the message box on my Yahoo Messenger, while looking at the small video in a corner of the computer. Chatting with my daughter in California from an internet café in Manila is the highlight of my week. I specify to the technician, "with a webcam" when I choose the computer. I then invite my three daughters—one in California, another in Arizona, and the other in Texas—to a conference where they have set up their webcams and speakers on the other end and we all see and talk to each other as if we were all together!

I am there on highlights like my grandson taking his first steps. Or to see my oldest grandson Xavi in his Halloween mask. I try to look scared when he says, "Look at this, Meh" (short for Mommy, as my grandchildren call me) as he makes blood drip from his mask. I am there on birthdays, joining in the birthday song and watching my grandkids blow candles on the cake. I am there on Christmas to watch them open the presents I sent them. And to bask in that warm feeling when they say, "Thanks Meh. We love you."

The wonder of technology takes globalization to a new level and creeps into the living room where the family bonds and nurtures, thousands of miles apart.

I used to think my life as a grandmother would pretty much be like my mother's. Sundays the married children bring the grandkids to visit. Or I could visit my grandchildren anytime. But by 1994, when my three daughters had left the country, I found myself face to face with the reality of the empty nest syndrome.



Online *lola*: The Net fosters closer ties

It was on a visit of one of my daughters when I was introduced to text messaging. It took a while for me to learn to work my cellphone with just my thumb. I used to hold the phone with my left hand and type with my right. It took me so long to reply to messages from my daughters that they ended up calling me to ask, " Why aren't you replying, Meh?" And I of course would say, "I am; it just takes me so long to type a message." Finally, I got the hang of it before my long distance calls to my daughters could send to the poorhouse.

My eldest daughter enrolled me in a basic computer class before I could say no. So I learned Word and Excel, and most enjoyable of all, the world of electronic mail!

I have expanded my vocabulary to include lol (laugh out loud), brb (be right back), idk (I don't know), fyi (for your information), omg (oh my God), isnf (it's so not fair), among others.

Not only can we "chat" on the Internet using the keypad, there is the wonder of voice mail! I receive my daughters' voice messages even when I am not logged on, and check it at a later time—much like an answering machine on the phone. We can do the same thing on our cellphones.

When I first joined the grandma club at age 54, I got and printed out the first photo of my first grandchild, Xavi, from my daughter's e-mail, all the way from the Hague in the Netherlands. I marveled at this technology! And I felt so empowered to be part of it.

On one trip to California to be with my second daughter for the birth of her first baby, my son-in-law gifted me with my first digital camera, a Canon Powershot A60. Not only could I take still pictures, I could take video shots with sound! Oh I had a field day recording almost every move my new granddaughter made. Then I could immediately view the photos from the camera itself, or from the television screen using a royal cord. Best of all, I learned how to download the pictures from the camera's memory card and save them into the computer using a USB attachment or a card reader. Now I can view these photos over and over again when I am back in the Philippines.

Now 61 and a grandma five times over, I find that I need more and more time on the Internet. And the time difference in our locations has made Internet café conferences difficult, if not next to impossible. So I had a DSL connection installed and now I can listen to and watch four-year-old Gianina sing me a song from High School Musical, have a real conversation with six-year-old Maite, and listen to 3-year-old Rocco sing me "Happy Birthday," no matter how late, in the privacy of my living room.

My phone bill? Oh, I've learned to call my daughters for free from my computer, using (get ready for this) VOIP, or voice over Internet protocol. I love using big sounding technical words! And although I still miss the warm, little hugs and wet kisses from my five grandchildren, the seemingly cold world of complicated technology has brought back the warmth of family in my empty nest.

Oh btw (by the way), this grandma makeover story doesn't end here. I am now finally with my daughters and grandchildren in the US as of March this year. But since they are spread out across three states, I still use the Internet to keep in touch with all of them, and with family back in the Philippines. **Women's Feature Service**

Go to the light

LIGHT is the natural ally of artists and photographers, but Everyday Light is more than that. It is about being acutely aware of the movement of light, its diversity and constancy, and being mindful of its outer and inner forms. Such is the theme of photographer Denise Weldon's ongoing exhibit at the silverlens gallery in Makati.

The exhibit, which runs until November 10, is about Everyday Light, the pauses of breath and light occurring a thousand-fold during the course of a day. This state is often referred to as that of the witness, and it is from this state that Weldon's images come. Everyday Light is also about being grateful for the pauses in life that allow us to be spectators of the beauty that abounds in the everyday.

As a part of the Saturday gallery events for the exhibit, Weldon will be giving an "Artist Talk" on October 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. On November 2, from 2 to 5 p.m., David Mercado will be teaching "Prana Yoga as Creative Exercise," and Anabel Alejandrino will be discussing "The Artist as Natural Meditator." On the last day of the exhibit, from 3 to 5 p.m., Rose Yenko will talk about "The Creative Process: Drawing from the Well Within."

silverlens gallery is located at 2320 Pasong Tamo Extension, Warehouse 2, Yupangco Building, Makati. Gallery hours are 10 to 7 p.m., Mondays to Fridays and 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call 8160044 or email manage@silverlensphoto.com.

Uncovering Investment Schemes... (from page 7)

6. Always keep or retain a copy of the contracts, agreements, documents or receipts issued by companies that claim to be in foreign currency exchange investments. This is especially useful in an event involving legal action. A printout of the page of the website alone may not always be acceptable or sufficient as evidence of the transaction.

7. Contact the regulatory agencies. Please bear in mind that the mere issuance by the SEC of a certificate of incorporation to a company does not include a permit or license to engage in activities which require a secondary license. Always inquire as to whether or not the company had been authorized or licensed to undertake the above enumerated activities. Verification can be made with the proper government agencies. •

Safe and Sound

PDI File

THE Securities and Exchange Commission offers a few easy self-help steps for prospective clients who are seriously thinking of investing their money:

• "If you come across any investment offer by phone, e-mail, flyers, newspaper ads, or directly by any person, or by any other means, you must ask questions to protect yourself and your money," the regulator says on its website.

• The first step is to get the name of the person and the company making the offer, and their addresses and telephone numbers. The phone number should be a landline. "Do not accept mobile phone numbers," the SEC stresses. "The owners cannot be traced."

• Check with the SEC and bear in mind [that] an SEC company registration does not grant authority to sell investment instruments, such as securities, bonds, commercial papers, or similar financial instruments.

• Do not be "tricked or tempted by offers of promissory notes or post-dated checks which will be issued in your favor to allegedly ensure the payment of earnings and the reimbursement of [one's] investments." •

Inquiries about suspicious investment schemes may be coursed through the SEC's market regulation department at 721-5058 or the BSP's supervision and examination department at 524-7011 local 3017 or 523-2582.

No more excuses

Hands big and small volunteer to make a difference

THE hardest part was keeping a straight face amid the Kris-speak that a group of fellow volunteers engaged in while painting a mural. "*Ay*, my arms are so *ngawit na*. Let me phone my driver so he can make me *palit*. He's not doing anything *naman*."

Stop it, we tell ourselves, suppressing a smirk. These ladies could very well be painting their nails instead of being out here under overcast skies, risking stains on their linen pants and shirt. And they can't help being rich, you beeyetch!

If it sounded like we're grousing, it's probably because we needed to find something to pick on. After all, doing volunteer work was supposed to feel like a sacrifice, and here we were, having a rollicking good time painting a mural on the wall of the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul orphanage as a gift for its 120th anniversary. And there was free lunch, too! Hmmm, highly suspicious. Isn't the Catholic dictum supposed to be, "If it feels good, it must be bad"?

The folks at Hands-On Manila Foundation Inc. have apparently never heard of this. With infectious good cheer, they plan to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism with a day-long service marathon they dub as Servathon. Scheduled for October 26, Servathon brings together do-gooders from 16 companies—Accenture, AmEx, BPI Foundation, Coca Cola Foundation, Eon, HSBC, the Inquirer, Thomson Financial, Rockwell Land, Chevron, JTI, Ateneo Law School Batch '85, Central Azucarera de Don Pedro, Cibo, Globe Telecom and Shell Philippines—for a spot of community service.

Taking off from last year's success, this second Servathon hopes to gather 540 volunteers to accomplish 19 projects, among them building homes and school libraries, mural painting, gardening, and landscaping for public schools and charity institutions. "Volunteering is not limited to the rich," says Servathon 2007 chair Junie Del Mundo. "Giving time is not expensive. Instead of going to the mall, why not do some community project?"

Hands-On Manila also offers flexible volunteering opportunities, depending on one's available time and inclination, he adds. "Just tell us how much time you have, how many you are if you're volunteering as a group, and what skills you have. We'll match that with a project or activity that you can do," assures Del Mundo. He recalls how the FEU Tamaraws volunteered to play basketball with prisoners, while a group of students who had two hours on their hand were asked to paint the oars of a dragonboat team.

From last year's theme of "Be the change," this year's Servathon moves on to the theme, "I am the change." And for good reason, says Del Mundo. "Volunteers speak not just of making a difference in the world, but of realizing that they have been changed by the experience as well."

Servathon, he adds, gives employees who are typically career-focused, the opportunity to step out of their office space and comfort zone to help others. "We believe truly productive people are those with balanced lives, and service is part of such."

There, you have no more excuses to skirt this chance. If you and your company aren't averse to feeling good while, er, sacrificing your time, log on to www.handsonmanila.org to find out how you can join Servathon and become a volunteer. **PAC**

The Lyrical Art of Warfare

Multi-awarded poet Eric Gamalinda deploys a new collection

"Amigo Warfare," a new collection by Eric Gamalinda following his award-winning "Zero Gravity," has recently been released by Cherry Grove Collections, an independent press based in Cincinnati, Ohio. The collection draws on the poet's experience as an immigrant and as witness to the martial law years in the Philippines, and is a virtual chronicle of life in America during the Bush years. Featuring cover art work by renowned Guatemalan photographer Luis Gonzalez Palma, "Amigo Warfare" is hailed by D. Nurkse, poet laureate of Brooklyn: "Sometimes I think we do everything in code, and poetry is the decoder ring, the anti-code. I felt this especially when I read Eric Gamalinda. His wistful, fierce, enthralled voice seems to speak the true language, the sotto voce language we can't hear in our loud world of binary and mutually destructive opposites. Gamalinda is a marvelous poet, and 'Amigo Warfare' is a passport to his elusive, beautiful, unknowable, and suddenly familiar kingdom."

Born and raised in Manila, Gamalinda has made New York City his home since 1994. He has received the Asian American Literary Award for his previous collection of poetry, "Zero Gravity" (Alice James Books, 1999). "Amigo Warfare" can be ordered through Amazon.com or through Cherry Grove Publications (http://www.cherry-grove. com/gamalinda.html). View the poet's literary and visual work at http:/ /mysite.verizon.net/vzeslrlq/gamalinda).

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In a platter, arrange 1 cup diced ripe mango, 30 pcs fried wanton wrapper, 150g mixed lettuce, 1 cup soy or white chicken, 1/2 cup sliced & fried Lap Cheong sausage, 1/2 cup diced apple, 1/2 cup peeled mandarin orange, 1/2 cup peeled pomelo, 1 cup blanched asparagus, 1 cup whole kernel or baby corn, 2 tbsps julienne of leeks and 1/4 cup julienne of carrots. Serve with the dressing or drizzle dressing on platter. How about you?

What's your Jufran® today?

WORLD / A28

Burma restores Internet, but arrests continue

BUSINESS / B1

Gov't acts to save P40-B coconut sector from invasive pest

SPORTS / A29

Techno show ushers in 33rd PBA season

ACROSS / A19

Philhealth stops payment of claims for cataract surgery

PDI No. 1 for families of OFWs, says survey

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

AMONG FAMILIES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers, the young, or the affluent in Metro Manila, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is the broadsheet of choice, according to results of three separate surveys conducted by Nielsen Media Research.

PDI NO.1/A12

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, October 15, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 309 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Fireworks, band greet La Naval procession

By Leila B. Salaverria

A HUSH FELL OVER A CROWD OF DEVOtees gathered outside the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City when the image of the Virgen de La Naval finally emerged for the afternoon procession yesterday.

The image wore magnificent gold vest-

FIREWORKS/A18

SPECIAL REPORT

'Acceptable presence' new US basing plan

By Herbert Docena
Contributor

(First of three parts)

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, THE PHILIPpine Senate made the historic vote to shut down what American analysts once described as "probably the most important basing complex in the world"—the US military bases in Subic and Clark, along with other smaller support and communications facilities in the country.

Taken after long and emotional debates, the Senate vote shook the Philippines' relations with its most important ally. That one small and weak country could say no to what by then had become the world's only remaining superpower reverberated across the world.

Since then, every move by the US military in the Philippines has provoked controversy. For the most part, however, the question has tended to be framed in terms of whether the United States is seeking to reestablish the kind of bases it had in the past. Such framing has consequently allowed the US and Philippine governments to categorically deny any such plans.

But what has since emerged is not a return to the past but a new and different kind of basing.

Since the end of the Cold War in 1989, but in a process that has accelerated since the Bush administration came to office, the United States has embarked on what American officials tout as the most radical reconfiguration since World War II of its "global defense posture."

This term no longer refers simply to the over 850 physical bases and installations that the United States now maintains in 46 countries around the world. As US Defense Undersecretary for Policy Douglas J. Feith explained: "We are not talking only about basing, we're talking about the ability of our forces to operate when and where they are needed."

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ACCEPTABLE/A18

VILLAGERS welcome a US soldier joining the Balikatan exercises in Jolo, viewed as part of a US "limited access" basing plan. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

'Yes, we received money'

'Honest Ed' hailed for disclosing Palace cash

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

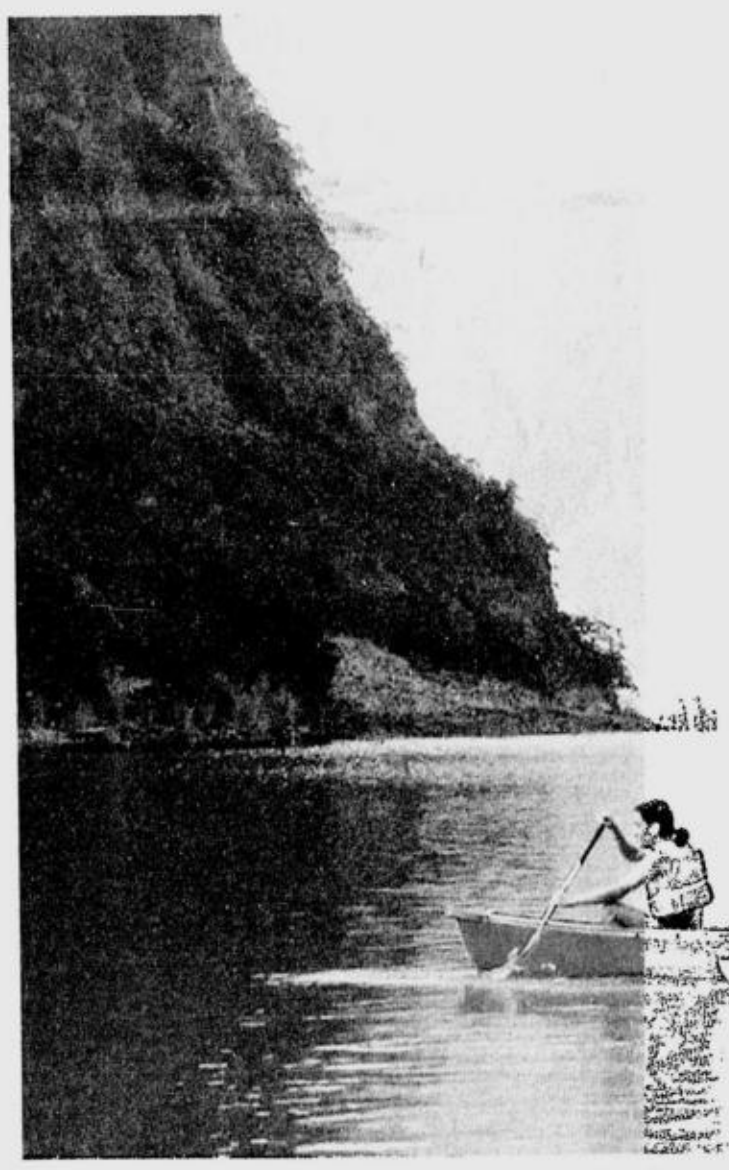
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PAMPANGA Gov. Eddie Panlilio yesterday won praises for telling the truth when he said he had received a bag stuffed with P500,000 in cash from Malacañang, and for his announced intention to use the money for public good.

Even a critic of Panlilio suggested that the governor be now called "Honest Ed" for what he did, but one supporter said the Roman Catholic priest-turned-politician should return the money.

The admissions by Panlilio and by another provincial governor that they received cash handouts from the Palace (*see banner story*) followed similar admissions by several congressmen that they also got bags filled with cash from Malacañang on the same day—Thursday last week.

The handouts came amid a controversy involving moves by congression-

HONEST/A8



TOURISTS row a kayak to explore the turquoise-colored crater lake of Mount Pinatubo, 16 years after it erupted and killed more than 1,500 people. AFP

2 more governors bare 'gifts' from Palace

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor
and Christine O. Avendaño

AND NOW THERE ARE three.

Two more governors—both from southern Luzon—yesterday owned up to receiving P500,000 each from Malacañang last week at the height of a controversy over moves to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Their admissions brought to three the number of top provincial executives who had said they received handouts from the Palace, following a similar statement given by Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio.

But unlike Panlilio, the two governors asked not to be identified for their own reasons. One fears courting Ms Arroyo's displeasure, while the other one is an official of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), which has taken the position of denying there had been any such handouts.

A fourth governor said he also heard money flowed after the Malacañang meeting on Thursday but that he missed the Palace "blessings" because he had to leave quickly for another appointment.

"Yes, we received money that morning," one of the two southern Luzon governors said in a phone interview.

The governor added that the money "was given just like that, no conditions, no instructions as to where the money should be used or why we are being given money."

According to this governor's claim,

YES/A8

Deadly volcanos as tourist attractions

SANTA JULIANA, TARLAC—RICKETY old jeeps barrel through a dry riverbed in Central Luzon, setting off a dust storm that coats the visitors bouncing around on the back seat.

The landscape around Mount Pinatubo is evolving again 16 years after a gigantic volcanic eruption killed more than 1,500 people and sent a cloud of ash into the atmosphere cooling world temperatures for years.

The fine sand deposited by the 1991 eruption over the surrounding countryside is being kicked up by sport utility vehicles driven by adventure tourists coming to swim or ride kayaks on Pinatubo's large, mildly acidic crater lake.

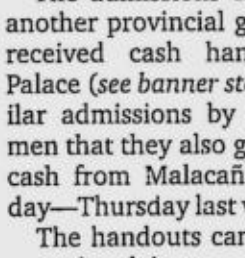
"We have to appreciate the fact that our country has many volcanos," said Perla de los Reyes of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). "They are beautiful attractions."

DEADLY/A12

Did Pulido sell his soul for 30 pieces of silver?

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO LAWYER Roel Pulido?



PULIDO

The man who once led the legal battle for a group of mutinous, but highly idealistic, soldiers is under fire for initiating what has been described as a "frivolous" or "sham" impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A common suspicion is that the 42-year-old Pulido has dropped, for 30 pieces of silver, all idealism and played along with a purported Malacañang scheme to protect the President from a

DID PULIDO/A18

Joker can't expect to be sacred cow forever

By Amando Doronila

FOR A LONG TIME NOW, MOST OF the press have been applauding Sen. Joker Arroyo for his exploits in public office as a paragon of independence and as a champion of the underdog.

The long-running honeymoon of Senator Arroyo with the press has hit the rocks. This is a salutary development. It leads to a more critical scrutiny of his performance in public office.

ANALYSIS

Arroyo has taken offense at the INQUIRER's report of his intervention in the Senate executive session of Sept. 26, bringing in a Cabinet member as counsel for former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri who was about to testify on what was tensely awaited as sensitive revelation on corrupt practices relating to the malodorous $329-million telecommunications contract with China's ZTE Corp.

The senator was offended by the story that pictured his intervention as giving Neri a reprieve from making the disclosure after the official heightened expectations he would explode a bombshell after he told a friend prior to appearing at the executive session that what he would say "will cause" President Macapagal-Arroyo's "downfall."

JOKER/A17

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

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NSA: Reds must agree to ceasefire first

COMMUNIST REBELS must agree to a ceasefire if they want to resume negotiations with the government, the country's national security chief said Sunday.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) should order its armed unit, the New People's Army (NPA), to immediately cease attacks as a show of goodwill, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales told reporters.

"There should be a cessation of hostilities if they are really sincere in returning to the peace table," Gonzales said. "There's no point in their expression of resuming the talks without a ceasefire."

He said the CPP-NPA, which have been waging a Maoist rebellion since 1969, should follow the lead of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which agreed to a truce in 2003 to pave the way for peace negotiations.

Gonzales issued the call after the CPP's political wing, the National Democratic Front (NDF), issued a statement through a senator saying that it wants to return to the negotiating table.

But NDF negotiator Luis Jalandoni said that with the adamant position of Malacañang against the resumption of the stalled peace negotiations, he proposed that the NDF and the Senate committee on peace, unification and reconciliation meet and discuss how to end the decades-old communist insurgency.

Jalandoni said the committee, chaired by Sen. Maria Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal, and the NDF negotiating panel should form their respective committees of experts to discuss the three unfinished agenda before the collapse of the peace talks: social and economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms and end of hostilities and disposition of forces.

"The process will not supplant the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations within the framework of The Hague Joint Declaration but will be undertaken to aid legislation, demonstrate that it is possible to make mutually satisfactory agreements for the common benefit of the Filipino people and to produce the basis for accelerated negotiations and agreements in the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations," Jalandoni said. *AFP and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

WHAT'S INSIDE

SENATE
to probe public bidding exemptions /A6

MARCOS
crony Cuenca loses PNCC case /A11

BOYCOTT MICKEY MOUSE. Picketing Filipino-American doctors in San Francisco call for a boycott of the Walt Disney Company, owner of the ABC television network that ran a perceived anti-Filipino slur on its "Desperate Housewives" show. BEN MENOR

RP med schools join fight vs 'Desperate Housewives'

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—PHILIPPINE MEDICAL schools plan to join the legal battle against the big ABC television network here over a perceived slur against Filipino doctors aired on "Desperate Housewives."

California-based lawyer Ted Laguatan told the INQUIRER yesterday he is discussing a second lawsuit against ABC with Philippine-based lawyers representing the medical schools. The first is a class action suit to be filed by Filipino doctors in the United States against the network owned by the Walt Disney Company.

"There was blatant defamation, not only against Filipino doctors but also Philippine medical schools," said Laguatan, referring to the controversial TV scene in which actress Teri Hatcher's character tells her doctor: "Okay, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Because I would just like to make sure they are not from some med school in the Philippines."

Laguatan said he would send a letter to ABC within the next few days asking them "to retract the defamatory statement" aired in the Sept. 30 episode of the popular soap.

The California Civil Code limits recovery in defamation suits against newspapers or radio and television networks to special damages, unless the plaintiff has unsuccessfully demanded a retraction. The demand for retraction must be made within 20 days from the date of publication or broadcast, according to the statute. Upon receipt of the demand letter, ABC will have 21 days to comply.

Los Angeles-based Fil-Am lawyer Roman Mosqueda and San Francisco-based lawyer and activist Rodel Rodis are assisting Laguatan in preparations for legal action. They have not yet announced the amount to be demanded from ABC for damages.

Meanwhile, members of the Philippine Medical Society of Northern California and the Philippine Nurses Association yesterday picketed the front of a Disney store in San Francisco's Union Square. The picket was organized by the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) in the West Coast.

"It was the first time for these doctors to attend a protest action," said Rodis, coordinator for NaFFAA's West Coast region.

In Kansas, Fil-am neurosurgeon Eustaquio Abay has called on Filipino doctors, nurses and health professionals throughout the United States to join the protest actions against ABC.

Tesda told to explain P1-M gifts for media

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE COMMISSION ON Audit has asked the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) to justify the P31.57 million it spent on an apparently "unnecessary" information campaign, including P1 million worth of gift checks supposedly doled out to the media.

The 2006 COA report also noted an "irregular" P9.2 million expense for the printing—without public bidding—of a book entitled "Salabat for the Filipino Soul Book II" authored by Tesda Director General Augusto Syjuco.

The expenses were listed as part of Tesda's information campaign for its Ladderization Education Program (LEP) in 2005 and 2006. It included roadshows, distribution of calendars, posters, shirts and the publication of books and comics purportedly to promote vocational education.

But COA noted that the information expenses were incurred despite the fact that the LEP was already being implemented by 153 participating high schools.

"Analysis of the provisions of the contracts showed that information campaigns may no longer be necessary as the LEP is already being implemented by various participating institutions," it stated.

In questioning Tesda's distribution of P1 million worth of gift checks to unidentified media personalities, the COA stated that the expenditure was "unnecessary, improper and not for a legal purpose."

An audit of cash advances for the gift checks, allegedly for "social marketing" purposes, also revealed that the list of alleged media recipients were either not attached or unsigned but were certified by Syjuco.

GMA-JDV ally warns vs danger to coalition

By Christian V. Esguerra

A KEY ALLY OF BOTH PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday emphasized the need for maintaining the stability of the majority coalition in the House of Representatives.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the powerful committee on appropriations, warned what he called "disgruntled elements" within the coalition that disturbing the stability of the alliance would ultimately hit the President.

"It's very obvious—to anyone who tries to break the coalition, (the move) will boomerang on the presidency," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from Albay.

"You can't hurt the coalition in Congress without hurting the presidency." "As of now, I don't see any crack in the coalition except for some disgruntled elements."

Lagman's position echoed that of De Venecia, who had maintained that preserving the administration coalition was paramount amid his reported conflict with the President.

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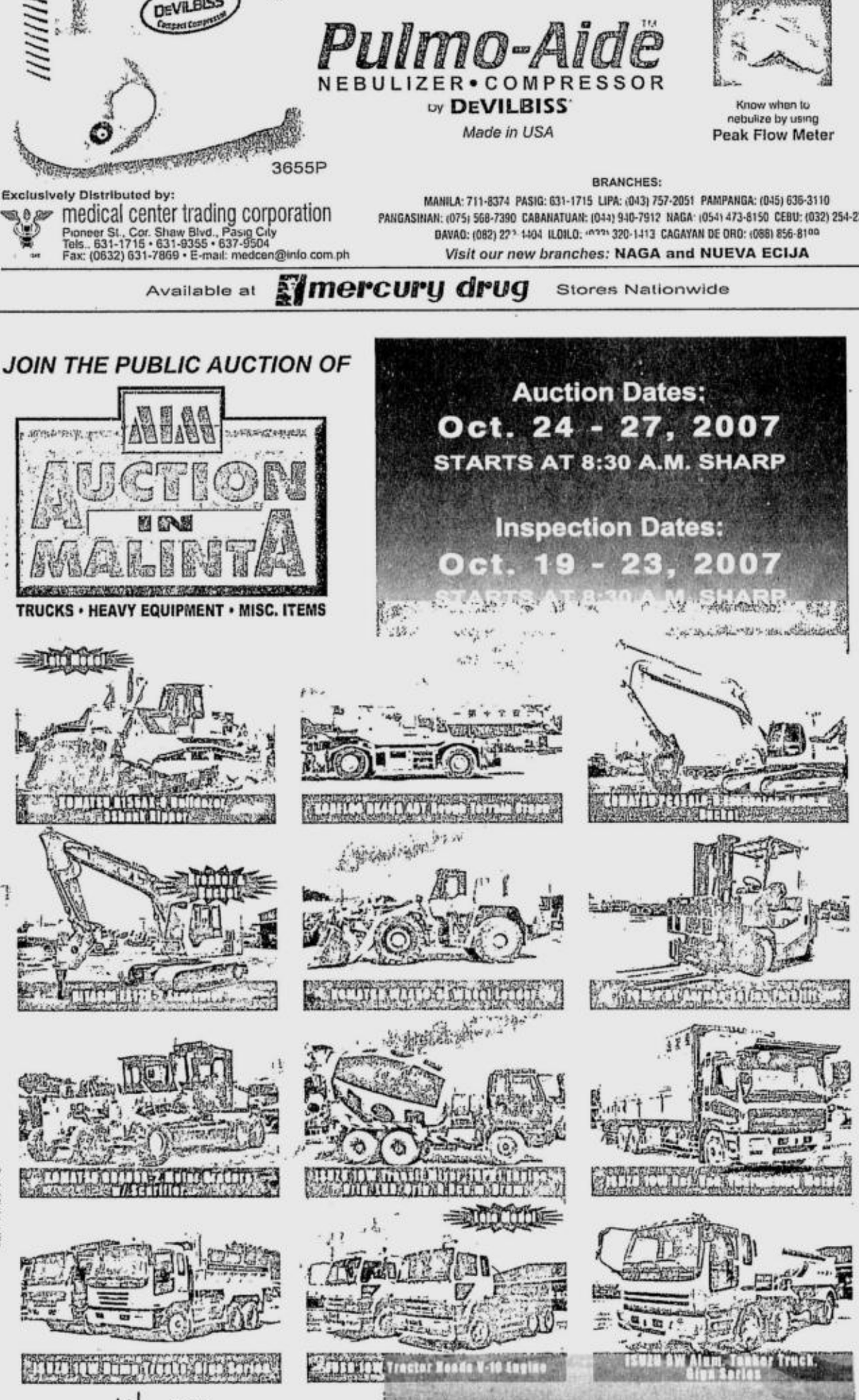

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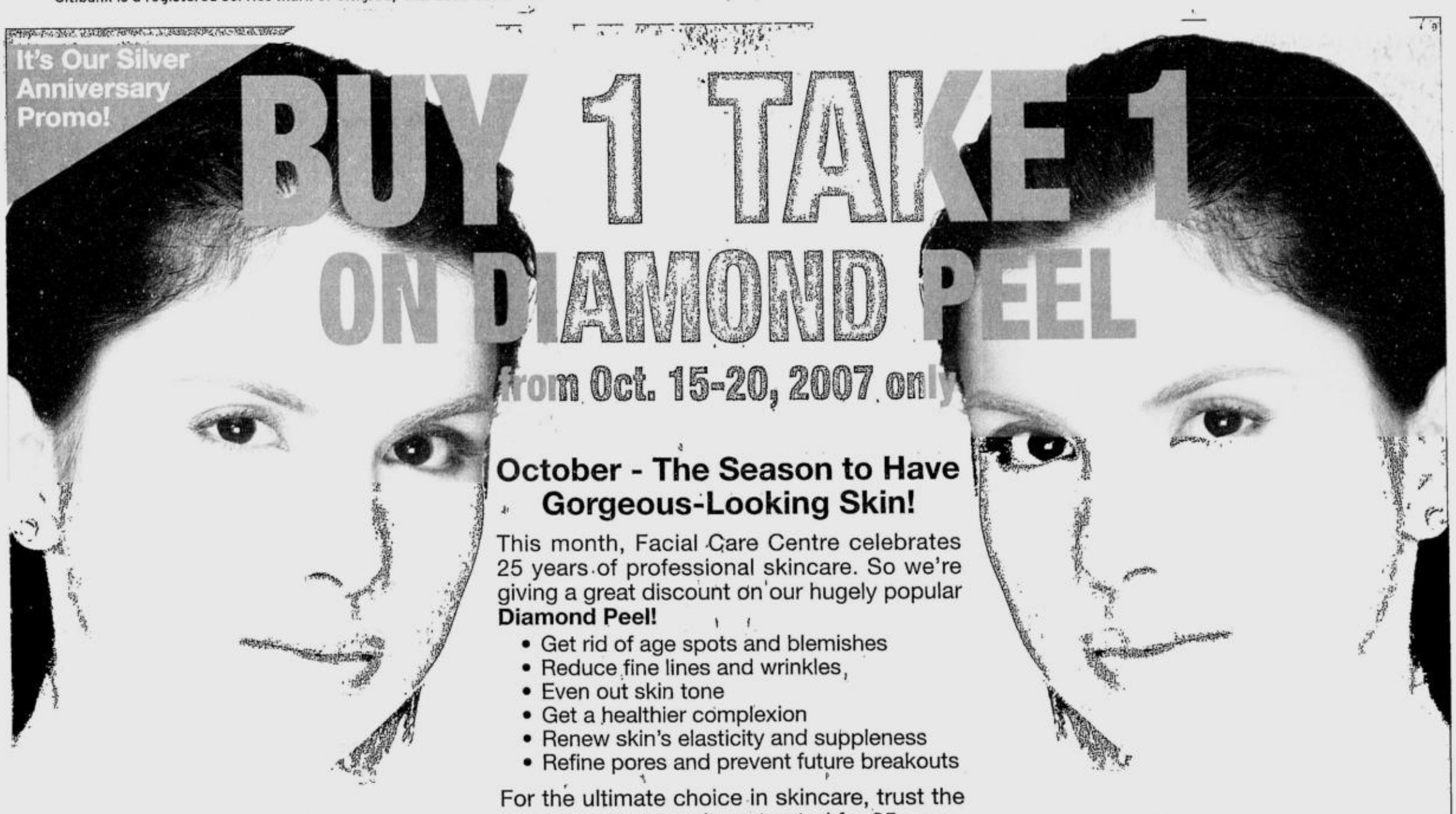

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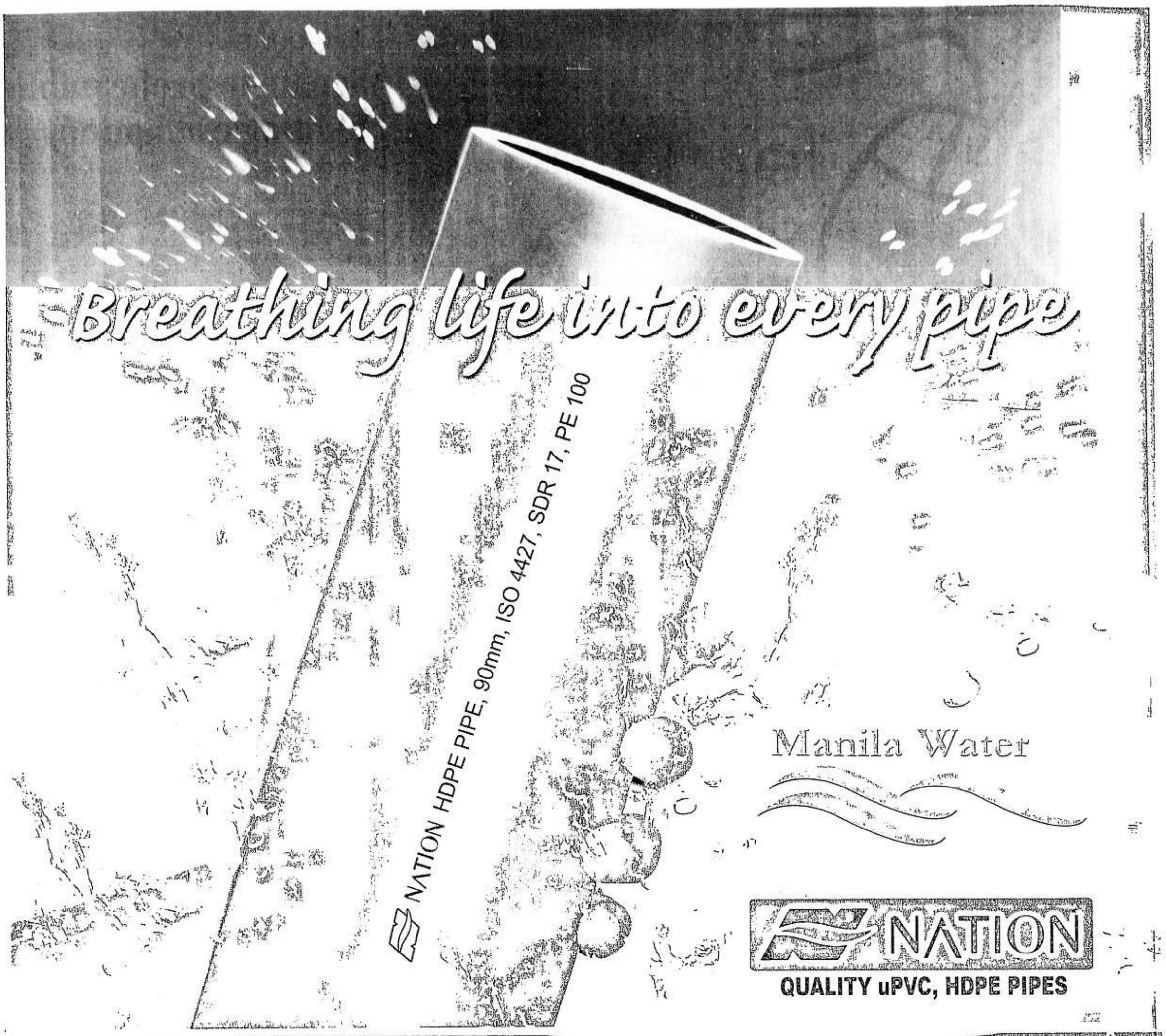
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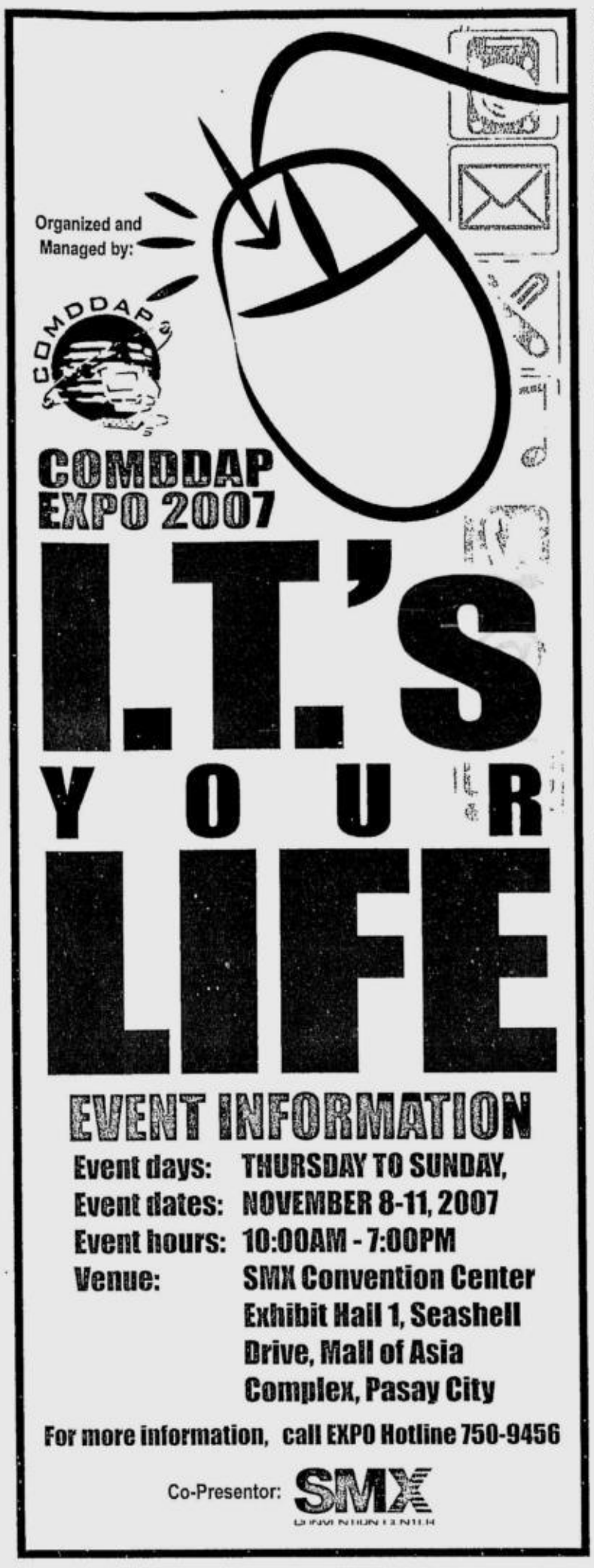

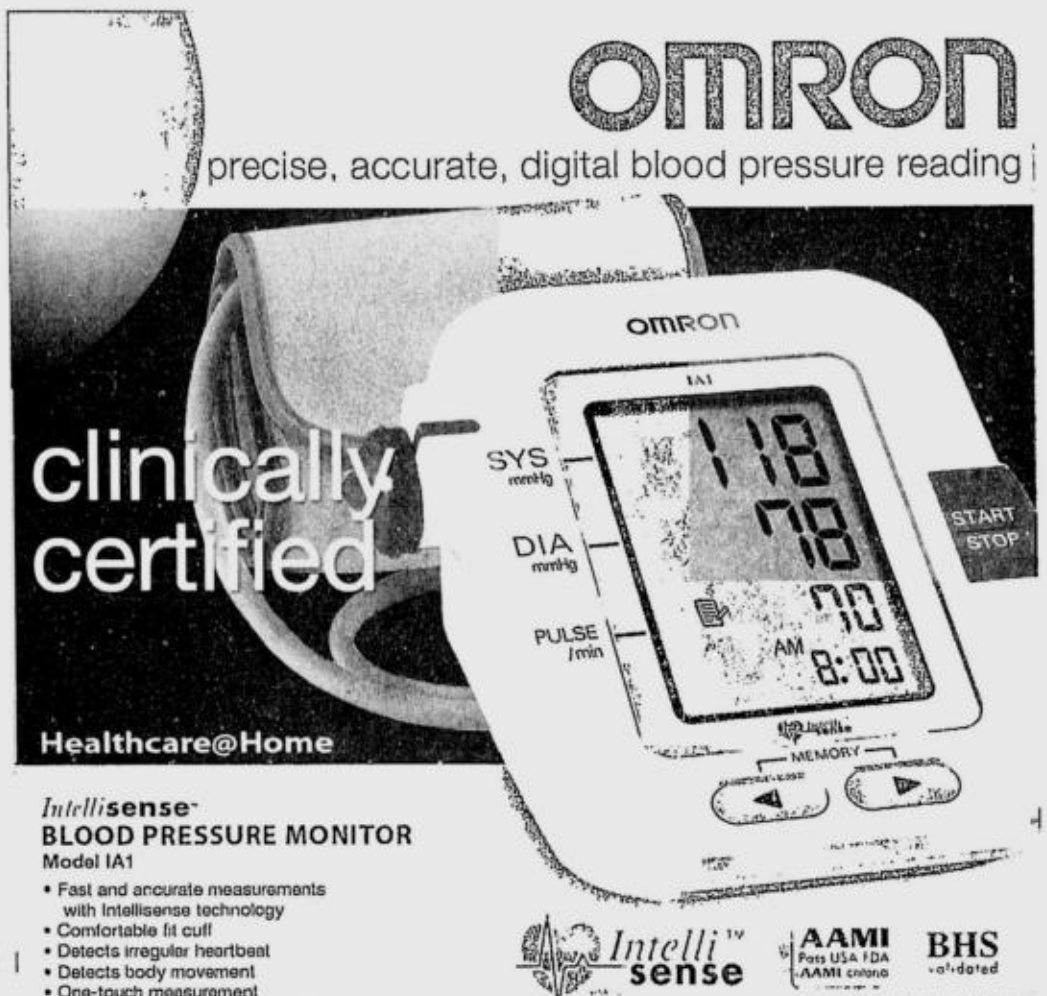

Senate to probe public bidding exemptions

By Gil Cabacungan

THE SENATE WILL HOLD A consultative meeting today with government officials, former budget secretaries and economists to look into the special exemptions from mandatory bidding procedures given to big-ticket government projects.

Sen. Mar Roxas, chair of the Senate trade committee, said this has become a major issue that should be resolved soon considering the controversy generated by the national broadband network (NBN) project which was awarded to a Chinese company designated by the Chinese government sans a public auction.

"From buying coupon bond to setting up a broadband network, our procurement and project evaluation processes must be airtight against corruption," Roxas said in a statement.

"Best practices here and abroad affirm that competitive bidding is the best means to promote transparency and accountability in government. I would like to hear from our resource persons how certain projects were approved even without having to go through bidding."

Roxas said that while public bidding was enshrined as a general principle in laws related to public investment evaluation and procurement, in particular the Government Procurement Reform Act, the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, and the Official Development Assistance Law, there were certain modes and parameters that allow for exemptions.

This include government-to-government contracts or executive agreements where the President has the leeway to waive or modify the compliance to the Procurement Law.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 13 ISSUE, a front-page story—"US arrests 'clown' who abused RP kids"—misspelled the name of a website. The website is called "The Smoking Gun"—not "The Smoking Sun."

***

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an article on Page A4—"Teachers question Chinese firm's role in CyberEd deal"—misspelled the surname of the secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry. The secretary's name is Peter Favila—not Pavila.

***

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an article on Page A7—"Migrante disputes OFW survey"—misstated the name of a financing institution. The institution's name is Asian—not Asia—Development Bank.

***

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A15—"A380 finds 'a lot of room' in Clark"—misstated that the Senate ordered the closure of US bases in the country in 1991. In that year, the Senate voted against a new bases treaty with the United States and rejected an extended lease on Subic Naval Base.

***

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Esperon looks into case of missing UP activists

By Nikko Dizon

MILITARY CHIEF GEN. HERMOgenes Esperon said he would look into the request made by two mothers to visit a military camp in Pangasinan to search for their daughters who have been missing for the last 16 months.

The appeal was made through former Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales who had written Esperon a letter.

In a recent interview, Esperon told reporters that it was "presumptuous" for Rosales and the mothers of missing University of the Philippines students, Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeno, to claim they were being detained by the military.

"Where will they visit their children? I have yet to see their letter. It might be presumptuous for them to say they are somewhere [in a camp]," said the Armed Forces chief.

Rosales had written letters to Esperon and Col. Jose Benedicto, chief of the AFP Human Rights Office, seeking permission in behalf of Cadapan's mother "to visit her daughter."

Rosales cited an INQUIRER story published on Aug. 24 which said that Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo claimed they had seen and spoken to the two UP students.

In an unprecedented move, the Manalo brothers had sought protection from the Supreme Court after they reportedly escaped after 18 months in military detention.

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Angara seeks more benefits for elderly

SEN. EDGARDO ANGARA WANTS LOCAL government units to provide more benefits to senior citizens.

"The Senior Citizens Act only set the minimum benefits, and it is up to the local governments to give more benefits according to their respective financial capabilities," Angara said.

Angara, author of Senior Citizens Act or Republic Act. No. 9257, noted that more local governments now work more earnestly for the good of their senior citizens, but he said they should coordinate their respective programs with each other to make them more effective and bring more benefits to the elderly.

Under RA 9257, senior citizens are entitled to a 20 percent discount in the purchase of products and services like food, medicine, and transportation.

Angara has recently filed a Senate bill which seeks to provide a monthly cash assistance of P1,500 to indigent senior citizens. Earlier, he filed a bill exempting senior citizens from the 12 percent expanded value added tax so that the 20 percent discount they currently enjoy is not reduced.

He said that there is a growing awareness of the needs of the elderly and the need for the stricter implementation of the senior citizens law.

Angara lauded Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmote and Caloocan City Mayor Enrique Echeverri for showing the way.

But he noted that there is still rampant violation of the law, saying some business establishments use subterfuge to circumvent the law, like some drug stores which demand doctor's prescriptions even for over-the-counter medicines.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 15, 2007
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 1:1-7
Gospel: Luke 11:29-32

As the crowd increased, Jesus began to speak in this way, "People of the present time are evil people. They ask for a sign, but no sign will be given to them except the sign of Jonah. As Jonah became a sign for the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be a sign for this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and here there is greater than Solomon. The people of Nineveh will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for Jonah's preaching made them turn from their sins, and here there is greater than Jonah."

Commentary

Paul begins his letter to the church at Rome, giving his credentials that he is preaching the gospel of the Son of God, who is holiness itself, raised from the dead, Jesus the Lord. He is both servant and apostle sent to spread the name to everyone. He writes to those in Rome called to grace and holiness and blesses them with the peace and grace of God the Father. This is a variation of the beginning of all Paul's letters. Pastorally this is the core of what Paul's work consists in: preaching, reminding and praying that those called to believe will indeed become holy like God.

The crowds press Jesus and he calls this an evil age that wants signs instead of repentance. But there will be no sign—only that of Jonah, three days/nights in the tomb and then resurrection. Others come looking for wisdom in Israel, but Jesus' wisdom is far greater than anything in Solomon's time, or ever. Nineveh repented at Jonah's preaching, but have we repented after having heard the Word of the Lord? Or are we part of this evil age?

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'Honest Ed' hailed for disclosing Palace cash

From page A1

al supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo to thwart any new impeachment case against her.

Panlilio yesterday said he received "mostly appreciative text messages" for his action.

Asked if he regretted what he did, he said: "I've no regret. *Totoo naman.* (It's the truth)."

He said he believed the money was not given as a bribe or payoff for loyalty to Ms Arroyo.

"The context is this. In the meeting, we in the governors' league said we would not take a 'pro' or 'anti' position on the impeachment complaint. We agreed to allow the case to take its due course in Congress," Panlilio said.

He said his office would distribute the P500,000 to different barangays after the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Lucky to have Eddie

Barangay Chair Almario Limpin of Duat in Bacolor town said: "What he did was acceptable because he took the money not for his personal gain. As long as the money (is used for) the needs of the people, that is OK."

Dr. Emmanuel Angeles, trustee of the Angeles University Foundation, said: "We are very lucky our governor is honest. He reported the donation he received. (Ms Arroyo) should give him more as help to our province."

Pampanga is Ms Arroyo's home province.

Panlilio's fellow priests also approved his action.

'Honest Ed'

"If he is going to use the money for the people, there is no pressure on him to toe [Malacañang's] line and no favor is being asked of him, his actions are OK with me," Fr. Albert Suatengco said.

Fr. Raul de los Santos said Panlilio was "right in taking it, spending it where it should be spent and exposing it for accounting."

One of Panlilio's staunch critics, local columnist Caesar Lacson, believed the money was "not a bribe as it had no precondition."

"He assumed the money did not come from the dark side. He did right. Honest Ed (is what) I will call him now," Lacson said.

Not a 'trapo'

Lawyer Dante David said "at least Among (Father) Ed was frank enough to admit it."

"I don't see anything wrong. I have no reason to worry because I know Among Ed is not a trapo (traditional politician) who would accept (aid) with strings attached," David said.

Businessman Renato Tayag Jr. said the governor "did the right thing by accepting it and disclosing it to the public and spending it for barangay projects."

This was an "act other government officials must follow," Tayag said.

Tess Briones, social services coordinator at the office of the governor, was worried that Panlilio might court the wrath of Ms Arroyo or her allies.

'Return it Asap'

Greg Pineda, an employee at the National Economic and Development Authority in Central Luzon, suggested that Panlilio find out if the money came from Ms Arroyo's social fund, or from her calamity or intelligence fund.

He said releases from those funds should be backed by a special allotment release order (Saro) from the budget department.

Former Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama, one of Panlilio's supporters, said his own sources close to Malacañang had "denied that there was gift-giving for the barangay elections."

"Governor Panlilio should have returned it Asap because governors are prohibited (from meddling) in the coming election," Villarama said.

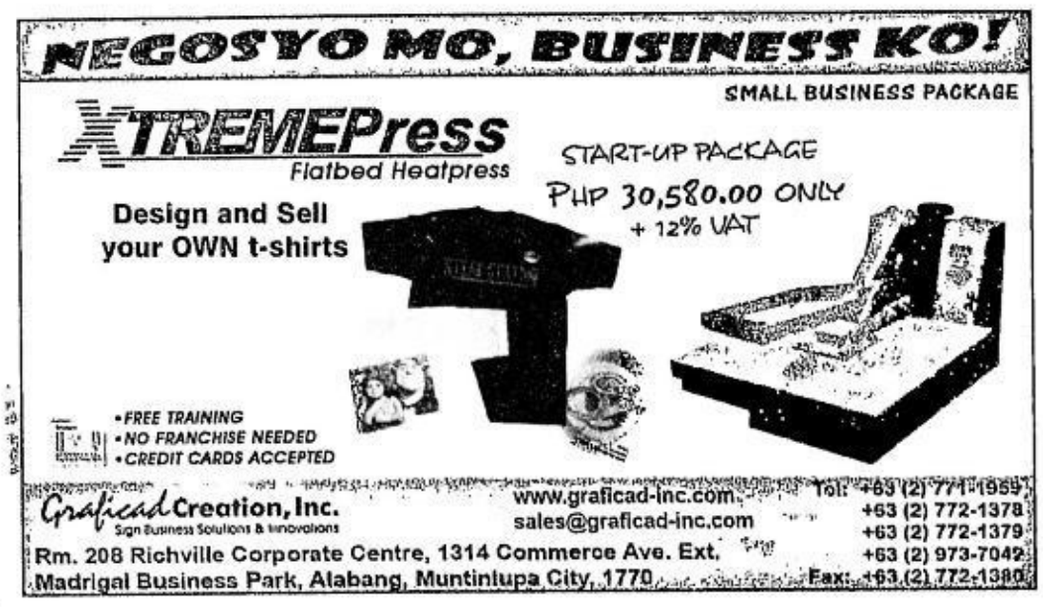
Be wary of gift-bearers

He added: "Receiving money from Malacañang ought to be eyed with suspicion because if it were official funds, it would be in a form of a check payable to the province of Pampanga with vouchers to be signed by the recipient."

Panlilio had said the recipients of barangay projects would be made to account for the money.

Villarama said Ms Arroyo "might not be even aware of this transaction happening on the Malacañang grounds."

He also urged Panlilio to be "wary" of gift-givers since he is new in politics.



'Yes, we received ...

From page A1

all the other governors who attended the meeting were handed brown paper gift bags. Inside the bags were paper bills amounting to between P200,000 and P500,000.

But such an act—distributing money after a meeting of officers and members of Ulap—did not come as a surprise anymore.

What came as a surprise was the amount given, this governor said, adding that at Subic two months ago, a similar meeting of Ulap officers and members called by Malacañang was marked by distribution of cash.

At that Subic meeting, a Palace representative told the local officials: "*Pang gasolina lang* (This is just for gasoline money)."

This governor, a member of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrat coalition, said Thursday's handouts were viewed by most of the governors as "*pampalubag loob*."

This governor, a member of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrat coalition, said Thursday's handouts were viewed by most of the governors as "*pampalubag loob*."

"Malacañang knew that as local executives we have so many emergency expenses, especially those involving our poor constituents, so that's why this money is given to us and we are even thankful for this will [help] our propoor projects," this governor explained.

Brown bag missed

The governor asked for complete anonymity, "or else *magaaway tayo* (we'll quarrel)."

Another southern Luzon governor admitted receiving also P500,000.

This second governor also said the money had nothing to do with the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

"What I know is that many governors have been complaining that they have no expenses for the barangay elections and many barangay captains are approaching them for help," the second governor told the INQUIRER.

The third governor said he missed the brown bag because he had to dash out for another engagement. This third governor heard about the money distribution later from a text message from another local executive.

"I was told about it by a fellow governor and I was somehow disappointed that I did not get one because that amount could be used for barangay projects and we local officials need all the help we can get to attend to the many basic problems of our constituents," the third governor said.

This governor is not identified as an ally of the administration but maintains a "cordial political relationship" with Ms Arroyo.

A total of 48 governors attended Thursday's meeting called by Malacañang.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, Ulap secretary general, said the other day that Thursday's meeting actually discussed the pending impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo and agreed it should be thrown out.

Evardone also said the governors agreed to rally behind Ms Arroyo and that they wanted the Senate probe into the controversial National Broadband Network deal stopped.

In a statement, the leaders and members of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) denied knowledge of any money changing hands at the Palace meeting.

"We ... strongly deny allegations that we were given cash by Malacañang last Thursday," said the statement issued by Misamis Occidental Gov. Leo Ocampos, LPP president.

Ocampos' statement said that the report that Governor Panlilio was given money was "unknown to all of us."

"Maybe, just maybe, since he's the governor of the President's home province, he was given special attention," the statement said. "But on the whole, no cash gift was given to us."

Ocampos said his colleagues were already grateful to Ms Arroyo for having included the local governments in a panel to oversee projects between the Philippines and China, the timely release of funds for various super region projects, and the inclusion of P5-billion Kilos Asenso Fund and the P2-billion Barangay Kalayaan Fund in the proposed 2008 national budget.

"These multibillion-peso projects are more than enough to reaffirm our support to President Arroyo," the statement said.

Undersecretary Antonio "Tonypet" Albano of the Office of Political Coalition Affairs urged Panlilio to identify the Palace staff member who purportedly gave him the cash.

"I wished Governor Panlilio would name the person so this could be investigated," said Albano, who also strongly denied being at the President's meeting with Ulap members.

In Sorsogon City, Gov. Sally Lee also denied having received a cash gift after the Palace meeting.

Lee said the governors were in Malacañang merely to witness the oath-taking of Ramon Guico as the new president of Ulap.

In Pangasinan, mayors in the province also denied received money from Malacañang.

Anda Mayor Nestor Pulido said he and other Pangasinan mayors were at the Palace for their oath-taking and to witness the turnover of the Ulap leadership.

Calasiao Mayor Roy Macanlalay said he did not receive anything.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno branded the reports about the supposed money distribution at the Palace as another ploy perpetrated by personalities gearing for the 2010 presidential election.

Moreno admitted signing a press statement criticizing the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo but denied having received anything during the closed-door Palace meeting.

"It's unfair to make a sweeping generalization that everyone who attended that affair received something," he said.

Senators were "outraged" by the reported distribution of cash envelopes.

"I will file a resolution today to have a formal investigation where we will invite resource persons with knowledge of the payoffs, whether recipients or givers," said Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Lacson said the Senate would likely summon Panlilio to testify.

"Now that a governor, no less than the local head of the President's home province, has provided first hand public testimony that money changed hands, it is appropriate to determine where the money came from," Lacson said.

He added: "We are not only talking about impropriety but also criminal acts (of giving money right inside Malacañang)."

Sen Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said: "It is outrageous that this administrations is resorting to this trickery to shield or 'immunize' the President from facing an impeachment case containing the grave offenses she has committed that may be initiated by the opposition and other groups that are disenchanted with her misrule." *Wth reports from Gil C. Cabacungan; Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Nash Maulana and Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

2 Palace execs deny presence in GMA meet

TWO PALACE EXECUTIVES yesterday denied they were present at a meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and local government executives on Thursday, where cash gifts were reportedly distributed in exchange for their continued support for her.

Undersecretary Antonio "Tonypet" Albano of the Office of Political Coalition Affairs and Remedios "Medy" Poblador of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office were not at the meeting held to discuss the status of infrastructure programs in the "super regions," Palace officials said.

In a phone interview, Albano said that on the day of the meeting, he was on his way to Manila after a one-week stay in the United States, and arrived only on Friday. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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	• NAMI ISLAND • MT. SEORAK • HANWA WATERPIA • EVERLAND • LOTTE WORLD • APPLE PICKING • HAN RIVER	
KOREA WINTER SKI	DEP DATE: NOV 24 - 28 / DEC 19 - 23, 25 - 29, 26 - 30, 27 - 31 [5D/4N]	USD 995
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JAPAN LOC 112

BANZAI JAPAN	DEP DATE: NOV 24 - DEC 01 [6D/7N]	USD 1770
	NAGOYA (2NTS) GIFU (1NT) TAKAYAMA (1NT) TOKYO (2NTS) NARITA (1NT)	
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SCENIC JAPAN	DEP DATE: NOV 26 - DEC 01 [6D/5N]	USD 1490
	HARITA (2NTS) TOKYO (3NTS)	
	• IMPERIAL PALCE • TOKYO TOWER • MT. FUJI • HAKONE • LAKE ASHI • AKIHABARA	
JAPAN ESCAPADE	DEP DATE: OCT 28 - NOV 04 / NOV 21 - 28 / DEC 21 - 28 [8D/7N]	USD 1950
	OSAKA (3NTS) KAWAGUCHIKO (1NT) TOKYO (3NTS)	
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TOKYO	ANY DAY DEPARTURE 4D/3N AIRTEL	USD 707

ASIA LOC 116 / LOC 119

THE BEST OF SAIGON	DEP DATE OCT 29 - NOV 1	USD 410
NI HAO BEIJING	DEP DATE OCT 27 - 30	USD 628
ORIENTAL CHINA	DEP DATE OCT 27 - NOV 1	USD 958
EXQUISITE TAIPEI	DEP DATE NOV 22 - 25	USD 718
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BANGKOK	USD 224
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BALI	USD 394

OCEANIA LOC 118

AUSTRALIA	USD 1705 DEP DATE OCT 27 - NOV 03
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SYDNEY	USD 822

AMERICA LOC 113

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LAS VEGAS	USD 1214
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FARES LOC 101-106

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PUSAN	440	PHNOM PEHN	405
BANGKOK	128	OSAKA	360
SINGAPORE	128	NAGOYA	480
JAKARTA	128	NARITA	395
HONGKONG	118	GUAM	128
BEIJING	298	HONOLULU	665
SHANGHAI	227	LAX / SFO	649
XIAMEN	210	VANCOUVER	649
TAIPEI	128	SYD / MEL	450
SIEM REAP	405		

Joint RP-US military exercise

PHILIPPINE AND US Marines will participate in two-week joint military exercises starting tomorrow.

The ground, air and naval training activities aim to enhance cooperation between the two forces, particularly in responding to "humanitarian emergencies," a Philippine Marines official said yesterday.

The Philippine Bilateral Exercise will have participants conducting humanitarian activities such as medical and dental clinics, Marines spokesperson Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan said on radio station DZBB.

Caculitan said the annual training exercises will be held in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, the Marine Base in Ternate, Cavite and in Crow Valley, Capas, Tarlac.

Caculitan said the Philippine Air Force and Special Forces from the Philippine Army's Special Operations Command will also join in the event.

Nikko Dizon

Marcos crony loses PNCC case

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME Court has dismissed the claim of Marcos crony Rodolfo Cuenca that the issuance of shares in the Philippine National Construction Corp. to government-owned financial institutions (GFI) to cover PNCC's debts was questionable.

The high tribunal ruled that the majority shares in PNCC had been correctly transferred to the GFIs as payments for the debts of the construction firm.

According to the tribunal, the findings of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upheld by the Court of Appeals that the GFIs had owned the shares, should not be disturbed since these were considered final and were backed by substantial evidence.

Equity

Former President Ferdinand Marcos in 1983 directed the GFIs, through Letter of Instruction 1295, to convert the loans of PNCC's predecessor, the Construction Development Corp. of the Philippines(CDCP), into equity in PNCC after it failed to pay its obligations to the GFIs.

The GFIs were the Philippine National Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the National Development Company (NDC), the Government Service Insurance System, the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Corp.

Cuenca was former head of the CDCP.

Mining company suspended

By TJ Burgonio

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Lito Atienza yesterday warned small mining companies that he would stop their operations if they were found to be engaged in big mining practices.

Atienza issued the warning after he suspended the operations of SR Metals Inc. (SR-MI), a small-scale nickel mine in Tubay, Agusan del Norte, for supposedly exceeding the annual extraction limit of 50,000 metric tons.

Atienza said they are also looking into reports that some of these small scale firms also pool their extractions and turn these over to a large-scale mining firm.

Under the law, small-scale operators are allowed to mine a maximum of 20 hectares per permit, and extract up to 50,000 dry metric tons of metallic and non-metallic minerals every year.

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PDI No. 1 for families of OFWs, says survey

From page A1

The INQUIRER was the most read broadsheet among OFW beneficiaries for the past year (42.7 percent), followed by Manila Bulletin (30.8 percent) and Philippine Star (23.1 percent), Nielsen's Media Index OFW showed.

Nielsen's Media Index Prime also found that the INQUIRER was the top broadsheet read the previous day (37.2 percent) by the "privileged few" market in Metro Manila—households earning at least P50,000 monthly.

Philippine Star came second (29.9 percent), and Manila Bulletin, third (24 percent).

Even among teens, the INQUIRER was the top broadsheet (4.8 percent), followed by Philippine Star (3.5 percent) and Manila Bulletin (1.8 percent), according to Nielsen's Media Index Teens.

Nielsen's Media Index OFW covered 300 remittance recipients aged 18 years and over in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao.

The survey, conducted in the first quarter of 2007, used door-to-door personal interviews.

The Media Index Prime survey used one-on-one personal interviews with 250 members of the AB class, or those living in gated high-end subdivisions and earning over P50,000 a month, and 250 respondents from the C1 class in Metro Manila.

The affluent market is described by Nielsen as "the most elusive and hardest to reach" as its members are "time-poor, closely guarded and high net worth individuals."

Media Index Teen covered Filipinos aged 13 to 19. With a population of over 13 million, this age bracket represents almost 15 percent of the country's 88.7 million total population, according to Nielsen.

Aside from the broadsheet preferences of the respondents, the surveys covered their exposure to and consumption of other media such as radio, television and the Internet.

Results of the surveys found patterns of product consumption and lifestyle of the market segments.

Earlier this year, a nationwide Nielsen survey also found that the INQUIRER was the most read broadsheet, with an estimated 1.47 million readers.

It was the sixth straight year that the INQUIRER was the No. 1 broadsheet in the country, according to the Media Index.

The 13th Media Index, conducted during the first quarter, showed that the INQUIRER was the choice of 54 percent of the respondents, who read a broadsheet the previous day.

Placing second was Manila Bulletin with 47 percent or about 1.27 million readers, followed by Philippine Star with 35 percent or an estimated 1.15 million readers.

The survey covered 2,550 respondents aged 10 years and above from all socioeconomic classes in 22 cities all over the country. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

A LOCAL guide crosses steaming fissures of Taal Volcano during a raised volcanic activity in 1992. AFP

Deadly volcanos as tourist attractions

From page A1

Of the 300 volcanos scattered throughout the Southeast Asian archipelago, 22 are active while 27 are classified as "potentially active."

Despite the danger, the government is looking at ways of turning these dormant monsters into money-spinning tourist draw cards.

Appeal of eruptions

"People are fascinated by the phenomenon of volcanic eruptions," said Francois Dominique de Larouziere, scientific director of Vulcania, a volcano park that has drawn some 2.45 million paying visitors a year since its opening in 2002 on an extinct volcano in the remote Auvergne region of central France.

By contrast, total annual tourist arrivals in the Philippines have never passed the three million mark.

According to De los Reyes, people go out of their way to see the impact of eruptions. During last year's deadly eruptions of Mayon volcano, 340 kilometers southeast of Manila, tourists flocked to the area to catch a glimpse of the eruptions.

Mayon, with a perfect cone similar to Japan's Mount Fuji, rises 2,420 meters above emerald rice fields near Legazpi City in Albay. A deadly eruption in 1814 buried some 1,200 people alive in the village of Cagsawa, and all that remains today is the church belfry.

"Volcanos show how dynamic or dangerous they can be, and people appreciate it," De los Reyes said, adding that the unique shapes of land formations caused by volcanic eruptions themselves also drew people in.

Interactive attractions

"Geothermal lesions," including hot springs and fuming vents caused by melting rock, could also serve as "interactive" attractions that generate income from spas or campsites.

Pinatubo and Taal, a volcano south of Manila that sits on a large lake, is attracting major developers who have filled the surrounding ridges with vacation homes and fancy restaurants.

But Iraya, Kanlaon, Bulusan, Banahaw, Hibok-Hibok, Isarog and Kalatungan, to name a few other volcanos, are physically remote and inaccessible.

Apo, the country's highest peak and a potentially active volcano on the southern island of Mindanao, is visited mainly by mountain climbers who hike up the 2,938-meter summit and back over three or more days.

"Volcanos do not erupt every day," said Teresa Mundita Lim, head of the government's protected areas and wildlife bureau, one of the agencies involved in the project.

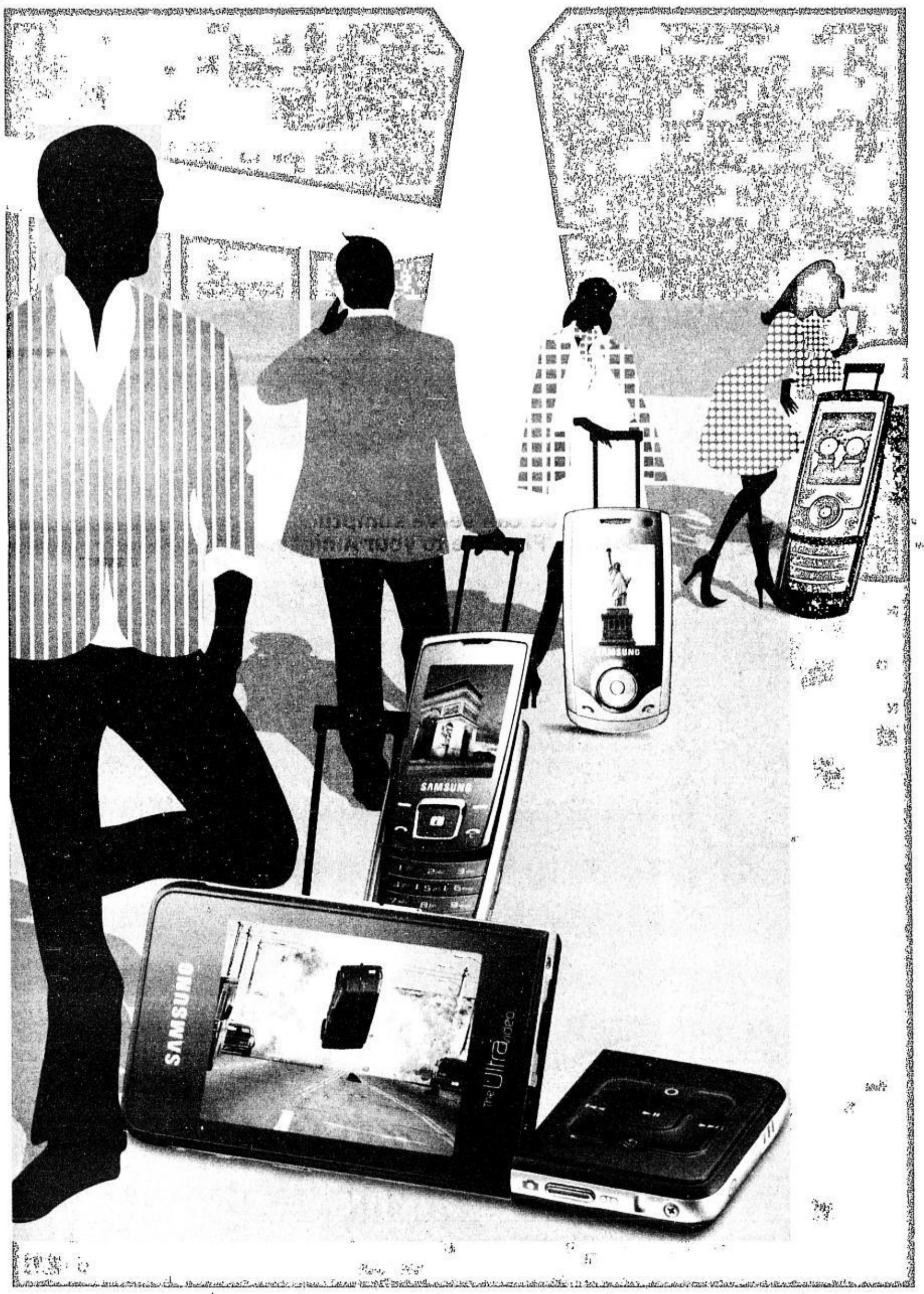
Biological diversity

Lim said efforts to bring in tourist dollars must not result in the introduction of "invasive species," disturb native wildlife, or result in the destruction or collection of plant and animal species.

The government vetoed a planned spa resort near the Taal crater in July and ordered the South Korean developer to restore excavated areas at its own expense, saying the project ran afoul of environmental restrictions.

Many of the country's volcanos contained some of the world's most diverse plant and animal life, Lim said.

"Biological diversity is part of the attraction," she said. *AFP*



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GMA calls for reforms in Burma

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has urged Burma's (Myanmar's) ruling generals to carry out democratic reforms, as she expressed sadness over the death of Burma's Prime Minister Soe Win.

"The Philippines is saddened to learn of the death of Gen. Soe Win," the President said in a statement released late Saturday.

"Prime Minister Soe Win's death comes during a most challenging time when Myanmar has to remain committed to the full implementation of its roadmap to democracy," Ms Arroyo said.

Ms Arroyo said she hoped the junta "seizes this opportunity to pursue its goals of national unity, reconciliation and democratization."

Soe Win, a hardliner, died at age 59, Burma state media said Friday. *AFP*

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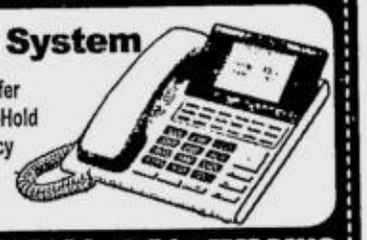
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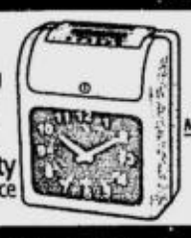
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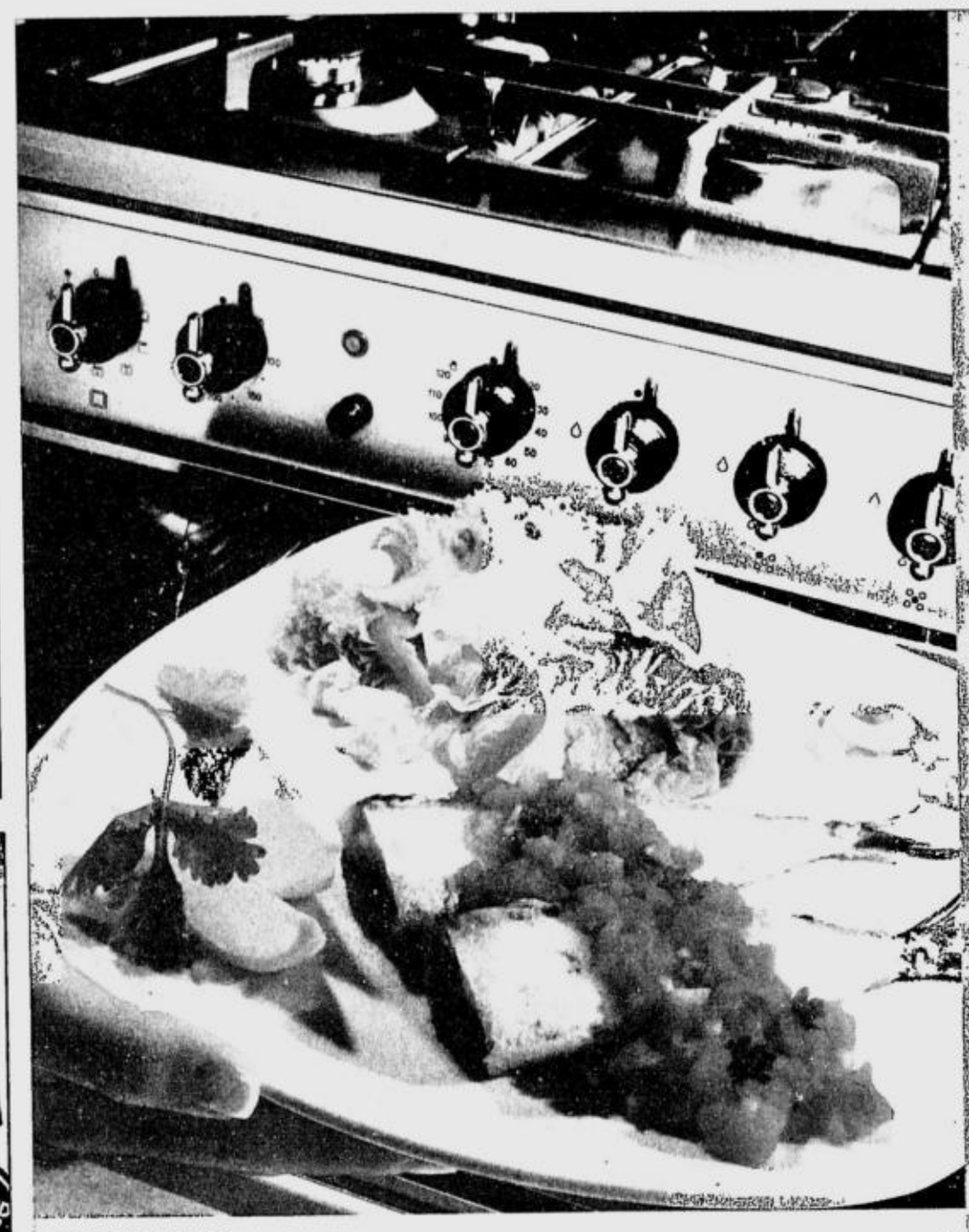

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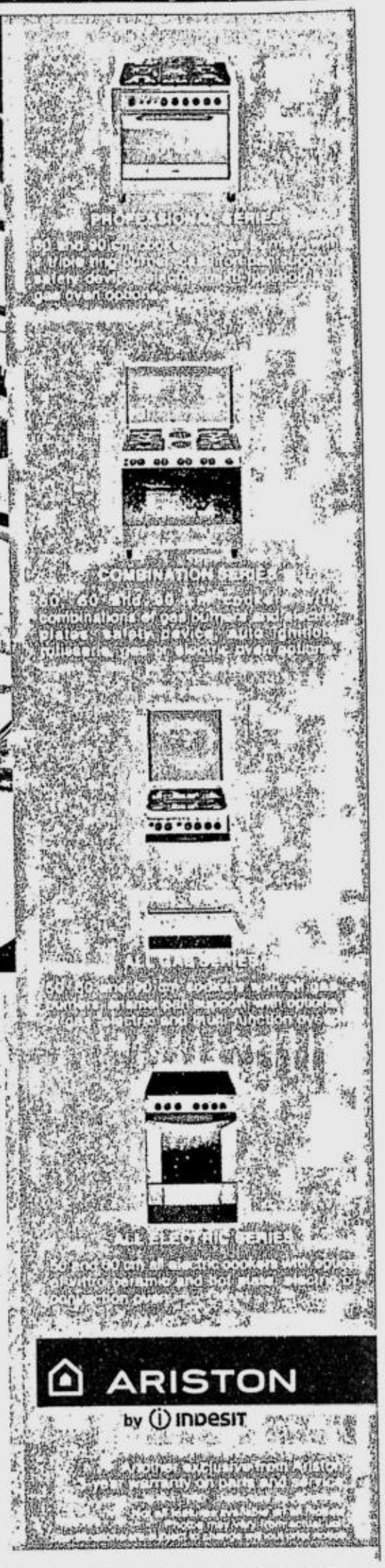
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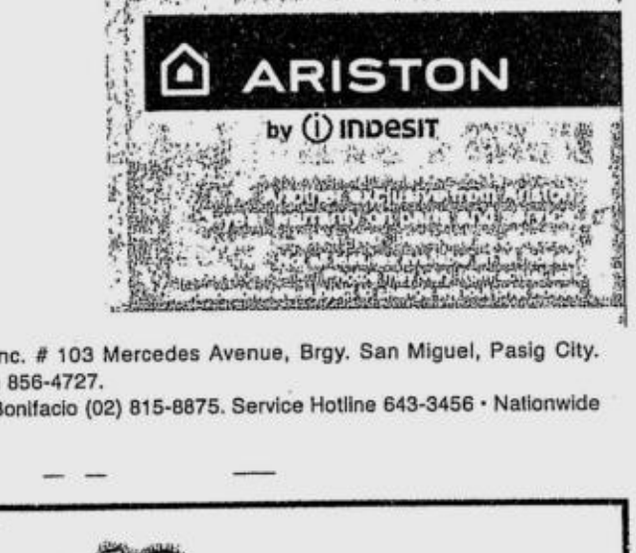

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Unspilt milk

EDITORIAL

WITH NOTHING LESS THAN THE FUTURE OF how we raise our babies at stake, the issue over the Milk Code's total ban on advertising for breast milk substitutes could not but be highly emotional. The decision of the Supreme Court last week, striking down certain portions of the Code's revised implementing rules and regulations or RIRR that instituted an absolute ban on infant formula advertisements, could not but inspire strong reactions too.

We understand the deep sense of outrage shared by breastfeeding advocacy groups such as Arugaan, which called the high court's decision "ridiculous." Its spokesperson did not mince words in ruing all the unspilt milk: "We are enraged. The future of Filipino children is now for sale. We can't see any righteousness in this."

It is unfortunate, albeit inevitable, that questions of right and wrong are tied to questions of legal and illegal. Cases filed before the courts are meant to decide primordially on the legal issues. But parties to a case are often heavily invested in it, to the point where victory or defeat implies judgment on their moral choices.

In the case of the Milk Code, a noble and necessary policy—the promotion of breastfeeding—is all tangled up with society's mixed feelings about the potency, the ubiquity and the sheer opinion-shaping power of one of the driving forces of capitalism: advertising.

When we discover that billions of pesos are spent by infant formula companies advertising their products and their sometimes rather fantastic claims, and realize that the government's pro-breastfeeding campaign in contrast is inadequately funded, we can easily understand why advocacy groups find the test of the market unfair. As the Arugaan spokesperson lamented: "What freedom of choice are we talking about when what [the people] have is a misinformed choice?"

The government's proposed solution, however, was extreme: Ban all infant formula ads. If advocacy groups found the test of the market unfair, then let the Department of Health eliminate the test.

Because the Supreme Court allowed some form of test of the market to continue, precisely for the public to exercise its freedom of choice, advocacy groups felt they had been slighted, their moral positioning on a legal issue opened to question. But all the high court did was to follow where the law led; it found that, in instituting a total ban, the Department of Health overstepped its boundaries and went beyond the scope of the Milk Code.

The Court ruled, in a 12-0 decision written by Justice Alicia Austria-Martinez, that the "national policy of protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding cannot automatically be equated with a total ban on advertising for breast milk substitutes."

In a separate, concurring opinion, Chief Justice Reynato Puno also warned that the total ban had implications for the practice of free speech. "It ought to be self-evident ... that the advertisement of such products which are strictly informative cuts too deep on free speech."

In following where the law led, however, the high court found a middle ground where the DOH can pursue its breastfeeding policy and infant formula companies can responsibly offer their products to the public.

What the government can do, the Court said, is regulate the advertising. This will force the DOH to be more stringent and, in the words of a health undersecretary, "more deliberate" in allowing infant formula advertisements.

It was in this light that the United Nations Children's Fund welcomed the Court's decision as in fact a victory for breastfeeding. "This signals an end to the unethical advertising claims that [for instance] infant formulas increase intelligence," a Unicef statement read.

The onus, in other words, has moved from the Supreme Court, which breastfeeding advocates wanted to see issue a once-and-for-all declaration, back to the DOH, where the promotion of breastfeeding and its benefits will remain, eminently, a matter of day-to-day vigilance. Considering the Philippine polity's need for growing political maturity, the decision may be just what the doctor ordered.

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A bribe by any other name is still a bribe

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SOME CONGRESSMEN CALL IT A "CHRISTmas gift." Others call it "a token of remembrance," "a send-off gift" or "a form of help." They give it various names except the right one: a bribe. But a bribe it is. As Shakespeare would put it, What's in a name? A bribe by any other name is still a bribe. It stinks!

That is why congressmen trooped to Malacañang last Thursday, 190 of them, when the House can't even get a quorum on session days. Word was passed around that fat envelopes would be distributed in Malacañang. And so the congressmen rushed there before the envelopes ran out. "*Baka ako maubusan*," said one sweating congressman as he rushed in through the Palace door. Another gathering was held that same evening, for those who did not make it to the breakfast meeting.

The envelopes contained between P200,000 and P500,000 in cash, and a promise that P70 million in pork barrel funds would be released soon for each congressman, all of which will come out of our pockets, the taxpayers. This is what congressmen live for: the distribution of bribes. Can you imagine how many billions of pesos were distributed to lawmakers on that day alone? Can you imagine how many schools, how many homes for the homeless, how many health centers, how many kilometers of farm-to-market roads, etc., all that money could have financed?

But on one single day alone, all that money went to the pockets of our congressmen. Congressmen like to say that they "have the power of the purse." Wrong. Malacañang holds the biggest purse. Congress can appropriate the budgets of the different departments and agencies, but it is the Palace that releases the funds to whom it wants and how much. Departments may have big budgets on paper, but unless Malacañang opens its purse, there would be no jingle bells in October.

And congressmen have an early Christmas because they eagerly sent a farce of an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo to the rules and justice committees, thus inoculating her for one year against a more serious and genuine impeachment complaint. She can relax at least until October next year.

GMA already holds the world record for having the most impeachment complaints filed against her but not one of them has even gotten off the ground because of this policy of bribery. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was wrong when she said the Chinese invented corruption. No, the Arroyo administration may not have invented corruption, but it is certainly propagating it. Bribery seems to have become official policy of her administration.

What is even more galling is the cheek of congressmen and executive officials in denying what every Filipino knows is happening. Hypocrisy is in full bloom.

While admitting that envelopes were distributed in Malacanañg and that his contained cash, Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu claimed he did not know who distributed the envelopes. He doesn't know who gave him his envelope? Others tried to make it sound as if it is as natural as breathing in and out.

"That's the obligation of our leaders in the ruling coalition," one congressman said. "It is expected from the party," seconded another. "The party gives such cash gifts as the House goes on recess." "The amount is usually given to congressmen before they take a semestral break," said a third. "It's normal at the end of session days for congressmen to be given tokens of remembrance," said a fourth.

And while some congressmen admitted they received cash "gifts," others pretended not to know anything about it. "I don't know anything about that," said a three-term lawmaker. Another lawmaker said Malacañang has the penchant for using the pork barrel allocations to keep the congressmen toeing the administration line. Presidential Management Staff Chief Cerge Remonde said he was not present during the breakfast meeting, "but I don't think the Palace will go down to that level. The congressmen are not for sale and for that matter the entire Congress of the Philippines."

Yes, Secretary Remonde, they are.

* * *

The best thing that has happened in the Philippines is the rift between GMA and Speaker Jose de Venecia. The worst thing is for the two of them to be together. If we were in a comic book, it is like two super-villains banding together. Look at what the two of them have done to stultify all efforts to bring them to justice. But with them opposing, or at least distrusting, each other, they would perhaps slow down in fooling the people.

That is why I am against a parliamentary system of government. With this system, one party, or a coalition of parties, would have control of both the executive and legislative departments. Can you imagine what they can do, what abuses they can commit in such a case? With political butterflies as members of parliament, all the MPs would flock to the party in power. And therefore there would be nobody to check its abuses.

In countries with a parliamentary system, such as Japan and Korea, the parties in power rule for decades. And corruption in such a system is gargantuan, with the prime minister amassing wealth for himself and his cohorts. In Japan and Korea, the prime ministers have been convicted of corruption and put in prison.

With the kind of politicians we have, we will probably eclipse other countries in corruption.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

People: *Ang hirap naman ng buhay.*

GMA: *Konting tiis na lang.*

People: You mean *mahahango na tayo sa kahirapan*?

GMA: *Hindi. Masasanay din kayo.*

Fates worse than death

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

PANFILO LACSON HAD SOME VERY INTEResting things to say about Jose de Venecia: "He's out. It's only a matter of time whether he'll get out fighting or not. I pity him. He saved her in 2005 during the height of the 'Hello Garci' scandal. What he didn't know and probably still doesn't realize is that nothing matters to the President except herself."

True enough, it was De Venecia who, along with Fidel Ramos, saved GMA from a fate worse than death—at least for her—which was to lose power. But which would have been a fate better than karaoke for the rest of the country, not least for the widow and followers of Fernando Poe Jr., who had been robbed of their rightful due. Pity is not the thing most of us will feel at that recollection. A sense of poetic justice is.

But as poetic justice goes, that is not the most poetic of them all. What is is GMA buying off the congressmen to fend off impeachment, the very thing De Venecia himself did gleefully over the last couple of years, using the most extravagant language to extol the despicable. To now find the shoe on the other foot, indeed to now be fighting for his life however staunchly he denies it, ah, but now he knows, or has an idea, how his countrymen felt when he screwed them.

His fate is a good thing for the current professional sycophants or presidential ass-lickers to contemplate. As well indeed are the fates of those who helped GMA get to be where she is today. Look at where they are now.

The two major individuals who helped her come to power and keep her there were of course Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin. They were the ones whose support and company GMA vigorously solicited when she decided at the 11th hour to throw her hat into the fight against Erap. She was constantly photographed beside them, not least in prayerful poses, beseeching God come to her aid. Cory and Sin could of course be forgiven for taking her into their bosom at that time, neither they nor the world knew any better, and the prospect of being king- or queen-maker is one to tempt man and beast, (ex-)president and cardinal.

What they cannot be forgiven for was continuing to thrust her upon us in 2004. By that time, the qualities of their protégé, which resembled those of the very person Cory fought and ousted, who was Ferdinand Marcos, were already patent, not least a willingness to do everything, including lie, to keep power. What were they thinking? Whatever it was, Cardinal Sin died before he could rectify his error, and Cory, who went on to turn against her protégé after the "Hello Garci" scandal, well, didn't that foulmouthed Raul Gonzalez say when she complained of being bugged that she was probably doing all the bugging herself—of Kris?

Dinky Soliman, Bill Luz and company were among those who campaigned for GMA vigorously, Luz even earning for Namfrel a characterization that will take years for it to live down, Garci's eye-popping "Sympathetic *na ho 'yan sa atin*," a quotable quote in the league of "Sec, *may* 200 *ka rito*." They would have a change of heart after the "Hello Garci" revelation, probably aided in no small way by the expectation of an improvement in fortune in the new government, and bolt away from her. Alas, to no avail.

The one who would condemn their action was Romulo Neri, who went on to talk about disloyalty and treason. Figuring it was a crime of epic proportions to abandon your boss in her time of need but not so your boss the most cherished principle of democracy, which is respecting the vote, in her time of greed.

Soliman, Luz and company have since been actively campaigning against their former boss, but so far have not found a voice loud enough to wake the dead. The reason is basic. Each time they point out the cesspool that is Malacañang today, they remind people of their part in creating it. It's not as if that cesspool wasn't already there before May 2004. Just as well, Neri has been regurgitating the contents of his stomach of late and paraphrasing Hamlet's famous soliloquy while in the throes of fear: "To tell or not to tell, that is the question...."

Ramos and De Venecia were the two persons who flew to GMA's side when she was on the brink of extinction and true enough plucked her from the jaws of it. Ramos is now neither here nor there. His favorite exercise, jogging, says it all: He's running around in circles. Every time he comes out to perorate on how this country might be better, I want to say: "Well, if not for you and Joe de V, this country would already be so. At the very least, a lot of journalists would still be alive today."

And Joe de V? Well, he himself says he has been assured by his former partner-in-whatever she would make no move to oust him as Speaker. I don't know that he will sleep soundly in the thought that his partner-in-whatever also assured the nation she would not run again.

Most of these people thought they were clever enough to manipulate someone whose hold on power seemed tenuous and bend her to their will. Their current plights should give them all the time in the world to contemplate the sin of underestimation. Take it from "The Usual Suspects": Never go against someone who is willing to go beyond you. Or never go against someone who is willing to cross thresholds you are not. Probably as a corollary to that, if you crave the things that power brings, never go against someone who craves power itself. You crave the things power brings, you will reach a point where you will find the price of power too high to pay. You crave power itself, you will never reach a point where the price of power will be too high to pay.

"Nothing matters to the Preside..: except herself"? The only thing one may dispute there is the word "President."

Impeachment as safety net

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THE WHOLE POINT OF THE IMPEACHMENT process is to save the nation from one who does not deserve to be in office. It is not meant to be an instrument of punishment. Punishment can follow in a criminal proceeding if impeachment succeeds or when the official concerned leaves office.

The constitutional rules for impeachment, however, can be manipulated to make the process achieve the precise opposite of its purpose. It can be manipulated to shield an official from a serious impeachment complaint for one year. And this is easily done. All that is needed is one member of the House who is willing to file or endorse a flimsy complaint. This is what all the current brouhaha is about.

Not that impeachment is an effective way of removing a president from office. No president, whether in the United States or in the Philippines, has ever been removed from office by impeachment. Richard Nixon left office by resignation. Joseph Estrada lost the presidency by what our Supreme Court called constructive resignation.

Nor is it that impeachment is the most profitable use of congressional time now. I can think of many more productive expenditures of congressional energy.

But how does impeachment work as a safety net?

The Constitution says: "No impeachment proceeding shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

The crucial point to determine is when the "impeachment proceeding" is deemed to have been "initiated." In 2003, in the case involving the attempted impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide, the Court ruled that the "impeachment proceeding" is deemed to have been "initiated" not when the justice committee starts deliberations on the complaint, nor when the committee submits its report to the House, nor when the House starts deliberation on the committee report, nor when the House sends the complaint to the Senate for trial, but much earlier—that is, when the House presiding officer sends the verified complaint to the justice committee for study.

In arriving at this conclusion the Court argued thus: "A proceeding must be 'initiated.' To initiate, which comes from the Latin word *initium*, means to begin. On the other hand, 'proceeding' is a progressive noun. It has a beginning, a middle, and an end. It takes place not in the Senate but in the House and consists of several steps: (1) there is the filing of a verified complaint either by a Member of the House of Representatives or by a private citizen endorsed by a Member of the House of the Representatives; (2) there is the processing of this complaint by the proper Committee which may either reject the complaint or uphold it; (3) whether the resolution of the Committee rejects or upholds the complaint, the resolution must be forwarded to the House for further processing; and (4) there is the processing of the same complaint by the House of Representatives which either affirms a favorable resolution of the Committee or overrides a contrary resolution by a vote of one-third of all the members. If at least one-third of all the Members upholds the complaint, Articles of Impeachment are prepared and transmitted to the Senate. It is at this point that the House 'initiates an impeachment **case**.' It is at this point that an impeachable public official is successfully impeached. That is, he or she is successfully charged with an impeachment 'case' before the Senate as impeachment court."

The Court continued: "The 'impeachment proceeding' is not initiated when the complaint is transmitted to the Senate for trial because that is the end of the House proceeding and the beginning of another proceeding, namely the trial. Neither is the 'impeachment proceeding' initiated when the House deliberates on the resolution passed on to it by the Committee, because something prior to that has already been done. The action of the House is already a further step in the proceeding, not its initiation or beginning. Rather, **the proceeding is initiated or begins, when a verified complaint is filed and referred to the Committee on Justice for action.** This is the initiating step which triggers the series of steps that follow."

In the current attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo, where are we?

We are now within the one-year period during which no other impeachment complaint may be filed other than that filed by Atty. Roel Pulido and endorsed by a congressman. And since everyone believes that the Pulido complaint does not have a ghost of a chance of succeeding, the President is safe from impeachment for one year. And of course another weak complaint can be filed a year later to shield her for another year *et sic ad proximum annum*!

The one-year ban found in the Constitution was inserted for a noble purpose: to protect an impeachable officer from harassment. But the wisest plans of mice and men have often gone awry. The human mind can be very mischievous.

Who fashioned the current impeachment umbrella? The Speaker? Malacañang? Kampi? Not that it really matters much.

Trillanes, Garcia and Balmaceda

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

AFTER THE STUNNING VICTORY OF SEN. ANTONIO "Sonny" Trillanes IV in the elections last May, many people were wondering how he made it to the magic circle, considering his lack of logistics, the absence of a decent political machinery, minimal media exposure and most of all his confinement in a detention center that curtailed his freedom of movement.

My reply to all the questions surrounding his achievement was quite simple. Trillanes won because he was, in the eyes of our people, the underdog in a battle pitting him against better known figures like Mike Defensor, Prospero Pichay, Cesar Montano and Richard Gomez. He was David against Goliath and the Filipino people love an underdog especially one who is viewed as young, idealistic, and reform-minded.

More than four months after his election, Trillanes is unable to participate in regular Senate sessions and recently was prevented from seeing his Senate staff and guests at his prison cell in Fort Bonifacio. Earlier he was not allowed to attend the formal opening of Congress where the President delivered her State of the Nation Address.

What gives? Other individuals under similar circumstances have been dealt with leniently and with utmost consideration. Here a young man who has been chosen to represent the people with over 11 million votes cast in his favor by the electorate is treated as though he were a convict, a threat to national security, and a danger to society and to the Republic.

Nevertheless, Trillanes continues to carry out his duties and responsibilities as a senator. In his first 100 days as an elected public official, he has filed a number of bills and resolutions dealing not only with military affairs but also with other subjects such as cheaper medicine and poverty alleviation.

Trillanes will be around when many of the characters in the current national scene will be long gone. The inconveniences and hardships that he now faces only make him more of the underdog, which in the first place got him elected senator. It is time to treat him with decency and fairness. While he is young and has a lot to learn, and perhaps has made mistakes in his life, he also can contribute much in the continuing debate on how to move the country forward. He represents the future while his detractors remain mired in the past.

* * *

A Boholano Peemayer, Felixberto "Guy" Camacho, class 1965, now a resident of Mississauga, Canada (that's a long way from Bohol), checks in with the observation that my classmate Artemio Mison is not the first Boholano jet fighter pilot. Camacho says that Bartolome Cabangbang, class 1940, flew the T-33 after World War II "and possibly another jet." Perhaps Camacho, himself a hotshot fighter pilot with the 5th Fighter Wing of the PAF and one of the best in the Air Force family, has overlooked the fact that the T-bird is basically a trainer and not a fighter plane.

Having said all this, let me add that for such a small province, Bohol has contributed much to our country's history and development. The fourth President of the Third Republic was a Boholano, Carlos P. Garcia, who succeeded Ramon Magsaysay in March 1957.

Before he became President, Garcia served as the foreign policy expert for the Magsaysay administration. As secretary of foreign affairs, he opened formal reparation negotiations, which led to an agreement ending the nine-year technical state of war between Japan and the Philippines in April 1954. As chairman of the Southeast Asian Security Conference in Manila that same year, he guided the discussions that led to the establishment of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (Seato). The organization was envisioned to be a defense alignment against possible communist aggression in the region. As a young captain, I served at Seato headquarters in Bangkok when Gen. Jesus Vargas was chosen secretary general by the member nations.

Carlos P. Garcia will be remembered most for his enunciation of the "Filipino First" policy aimed at breaking the dominance of foreign interests in the national economy and bringing about Philippine economic independence and sovereignty. Some historians say that this action contributed to his defeat in the 1961 elections.

* * *

Another Philippine leader whose 111th birth anniversary passed unnoticed last month was Cornelio Balmaceda. Many consider him as the "Father of the Department of Commerce and Industry," now known as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Ambassador Benjamin B. Domingo, a former undersecretary of foreign affairs and currently dean of the Manila Law College, remembers Balmaceda for personal reasons. It was Balmaceda who developed the policy of sending commercial attachés abroad to promote Philippine products and expand the market for our exports. Domingo was one of the first of these trade promotion officers appointed by Balmaceda. He was sent to Seattle, Washington, covering the Pacific Northwest area as well as Canada.

From my own viewpoint, Cornelio Balmaceda was a man of quiet dignity, warmth, strength and rectitude. When he was a Cabinet member, I remember visiting him in an old quonset hut, the family residence. At that time, I wondered why the secretary of commerce and industry lived so frugally. Later I realized that it would have been totally out of character for him to adopt a different lifestyle on account of his exalted position.

The selection of Manila as the site of the Asian Development Bank was the work of Balmaceda. In the closing months of the Macapagal administration where he served as secretary of commerce and industry, he devoted much of his time and effort in securing the votes of member countries of the ADB in favor of Manila. When I was posted at Seato, I recall him crisscrossing the region using Bangkok as his jumpoff point in search of support for the Philippines. In the end, his efforts paid off when Manila was declared the official home of the Asian Development Bank.

Just before turning over the presidency to Ferdinand Marcos, Diosdado Macapagal scribbled a short note to Balmaceda: "You have been a model member of my cabinet for integrity, efficiency and loyalty. Your crowning achievement was the establishment of the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines. Posterity will remember you as one of the greatest administrators in our government and as one of our greatest citizens."

My fictive kin Inday

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS, WE BREAK BREAD together at the family table. We share laughter with them in their joys and console them in their times of sorrow. In their sickness, we see to it that they get special nourishment and the proper medication as family members would. The burden of their children's education is shared with us as family members. When my sisters in the United States come home for their regular visits, they receive part of the *pasalubong* galore.

No, they are not members of the family. Being no consanguineal kin, they do not even come close to being our distant relatives. But they are part of the family and hence they are special. They are our household staff, archaically referred to by some as "maids" or the catch-all "domestic helpers."

The Filipino culture of the family, already extended as it is, nominates a fictive dimension to household staff. The family heads are referred to as "kuya" or "ate" in the local Tagalog variants, "manong" or "manang" among the Visayan groups. But brothers or sisters of consanguinity they are not, yet the honorific practice holds because of the special regard they are accorded by our penchant for extended connectivities. It certainly is a good practice that must be culturally upheld.

The journey to the city for household staff is almost a saga of its own. One helper we have had for a long time never finished high school. She left behind kith and kin to earn money and augment the family income which was earned through the toil of the soil. Through tales she would share with us, we knew about the family hardships and the rudimentary life of the hinterland home. Although we had never met them, her younger siblings were familiar figures to us, as she would relate to us how old they were, how they were doing in school, and what hardships they had to put up with. At times she would pack old clothes and toys we would give her to send to the younger ones.

Domestic chores are not an easy task for many of them who would invariably be asked to render a jill-of-all-trades performance. To live with a family that is not one's own is not necessarily an easy life. If for us there is never a place like home, so too it must be for them. Yet for many of us, we probably never fully realize how human our household staff are, and how much emotions and angst and pain and laughter and joy they carry with them. Theirs is a world that remains largely ignored.

And yet in a culture that takes pride in its extended families, there remains no ample protection in law for those like them who make our lives easier. I was appalled to know how much violence there still exists against household staff. A niece shared a story about how the neighbor's help came to them for rescue. During the day, when the family members were away, her clothes would be locked up by the house mistress, to prevent her from escaping the dread of her condition. She would be slapped each time she committed mistakes. She was made to sleep on the bare floor, her food even unworthy for the family dog. But there was just no means to escape the torture.

Another related how she had lived with a couple who both forbade any of the household staff to take even a day off. Home visits to family were forbidden. Infractions were dealt with severely: each of them would be called to the master's bedroom where both couples would take turns hitting them in the abdomen, to avoid any black and blue signs of physical abuse.

Loren Legarda, in what is probably one of her politically correct moments, recently authored a bill proposing a Magna Carta for the country's estimated 624,000 household helpers. The bill looks very positive and certainly promising. It entitles all househelpers to statutory pay rates, a 13th-month pay equal to one month's salary, mandatory coverage by PhilHealth, on top of an existing Social Security System coverage.

In addition, the bill mandates that normal working hours of household help not exceed 10 hours every day. Any excess work would have to be paid extra. There is also an entitlement to at least eight hours of continuous rest each day, and 14 days annual vacation leave with pay, excluding the one day of rest they are entitled to each week.

And there is more to the Legarda bill, such as the right to privacy of communications, and certainly the right to liberally get in touch with their families as they wish. They will also have the right to free schooling, subject to flexible work schedule adjustments, without pay reduction.

Everything in the bill is laudable, except that we have to ask who gets to police the contraventions once it becomes part of the law of the land. For we know only too well that violence against household help, physical or otherwise, takes place in the confines of private homes and is often hidden from public scrutiny.

The law may have a long arm, but I am still afraid that it has short arms in protecting the welfare of our household staff. And because that is so, individual families like mine have taken it upon themselves to give the household staff the protection society does not afford them.

Too often television portrays the household staff with the stereotype of the Visayan or Bicolana or Waray lass who comes agog to Manila and speaks a supposedly tell-tale accent of the *promdi*. Our laughter is supposed to be elicited at their expense. In fact, there is yet again a proliferation of Inday jokes, poking fun at Inday and her out-of-this-world accent.

I am not laughing. I may even resent it. Inday is family.

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Mabini's independence blueprint (1)

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN THE YEAR OF ENDING AND BEGINNING, 1903, one of the greatest minds this nation has ever produced, recently returned home after imprisonment and exile, set down for posterity his thoughts about the future direction his countrymen should take. In a small nipa house not far from the Palace his former chief Aguinaldo had been imprisoned in, Apolinario Mabini, reluctant politician, peerless intellectual, with mere months left in his tired and tragic life, was putting the finishing touches to his apologia, "La Revolucion Filipina," which analyzed the revolution and republic he had served.

The revolution of 1896, resumed in 1898, was not preordained. Spain, by listening to Jose Rizal's earnest pleas for reform and reconciliation, for the recognition of Filipino dignity by giving basic political rights and limiting, if not abolishing, the powers abused by the clergy, could have kept Filipinos happy and loyal. Instead, loyal petitions were met with hostility, racial antipathy and imperial arrogance; abuses, instead of being investigated, were covered up; and while revolution simmered, and then flared, the Spaniards went ahead and made a martyr of that most reluctant of revolutionaries, Jose Rizal.

Still, Spain, with a last exertion of conquistadorial will, suppressed the revolution. Te Deums were being sung at the Manila Cathedral even as Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo sailed into exile to form a poverty-struck junta in Hong Kong. He might have faded away from history in that British colony had not America flexed its new imperialist muscles and sought the destruction of the remainder of Spain's empire in the New World and the Orient. America was in search of Manifest Destiny and the senile empire of Spain was in the way.

Rizal had foreseen American expansion in Asia, and Mabini had foreseen that the nation that was today's ally might be tomorrow's foe; having studied the causes of revolution, Mabini went on to describe the causes for the demise and destruction of that revolution's child, the first republic.

Impatience, vainglory, a lack of honor and of judgment, Mabini judged, led to the downfall of both the Philippine Revolution and the First Philippine Republic. Filipinos suffered from the petty and violent jealousies of their leaders, as demonstrated by the power struggle which Andres Bonifacio, Supreme Leader of the secret society known as the Katipunan, lost, and Aguinaldo, a lucky commander and better politician, won; a lack of strategic vision; most of all from a lack of morality at the top which was copied by those under their command, as demonstrated by the abuse of women by Filipino soldiers which Mabini bitterly condemned. The Republic fell, fighting heroically, it was true, but hampered by the naïveté and conceit of its leaders, whom Mabini had tried honorably to serve.

Having penned his analysis of the failures of the past, Mabini set out to pen his hopes and his advice—for the future.

In the tradition of Rizal, Mabini mused on what he thought would arise from the conditions then extant. July 4, 1901 had seen the inauguration as civil governor of William Howard Taft, 330 pounds of ponderous politician, who replaced an embittered Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur and promptly began to govern with a cabinet-cum-legislature called the Philippine Commission, composed of Americans and cooperative Filipinos. A year later, by the time Theodore Roosevelt declared the "insurrection" officially over, the position of military governor had been abolished, and the US Congress had passed legislation calling for a census preparatory to a national election. Municipal governments had been organized, supervised by a national government armed with a Sedition Law that provided for the punishment of dissent. American actions, from overt acts of conquest, now turned to subtler acts of building up of a government in which Filipinos played a greater role than at any time previously. Circumstances were such that, in Mabini's mind, Filipinos had acquitted themselves honorably enough on the field of battle for the Americans to recognize that they would do best to give the Filipinos some measure of freedom than to try to kill them all. And that the United States, in turn, because of its own traditions and the peculiar characteristics of its leaders and people, would be more inclined to be reasonable, if not pragmatic, when it came to the principles and objectives of their rule in the Philippines.

But still, would America, then, simply baby the Filipinos along, until Mabini's countrymen would finally forget the freedom they had lived and died to achieve? No—for too much had happened for Filipinos to forget the aspiration that could only have been smothered much earlier, when the Propagandists first petitioned Spain for the rights of a child; the child had matured, and suffered for its ideals. The ideals could not be forgotten.

Mabini was sure, having worked with many of the men now in the good graces of the Americans, that there would be men of position who would not want independence at all, and thus be natural allies of the Americans: in particular to his former colleagues in government, Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera, Felipe Buencamino and Pedro Paterno, who had inaugurated Filipino participation in the new American government by demanding annexation—even statehood—by the United States. Pardo de Tavera's party—the Federalistas—was the first organized under the Americans and would be the first to be rejected by its own people.

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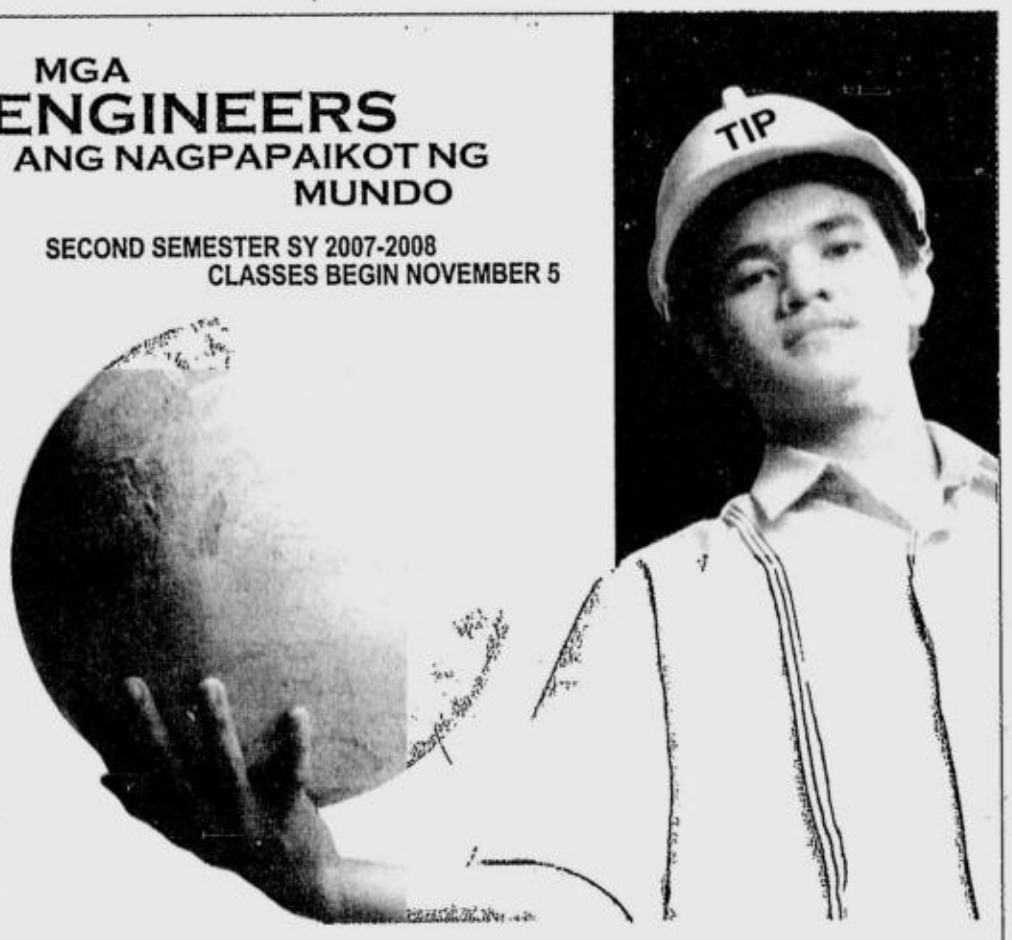

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A society of masters and slaves

I GOT THAT "INDAY JOKE" A FEW weeks back and, honestly, I am not impressed. ("'Inday' jokes spread; militants not amused," INQUIRER, 10/10/07) I even told my friend in the Philippines who sent it to me to refrain from sending the joke to more people. Simply put, it is nasty.

The trouble is, our educational system and society as a whole did not teach us "dignity of labor." In Toronto where I am working as a teacher, kids are taught how to value manual jobs. In school, they play with screwdrivers, saws, planes, fire engines, etc. At a very young age children are taught that every job is important.

No job is small. When they go to middle grades and high school, it is OK for them to write things like they want to become carpenters, plumbers, firefighters, policemen, gardeners, street sweepers, garbage collectors, etc. when they grow up. Of course, it is also OK for them to write that they want to become teachers, web designers, doctors, etc.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Unless we teach our kids the value of manual labor, then we will forever be a society of masters and slaves.

—ALFREDO MONTILLA, alfredocmontilla@yahoo.com

JDV III: no hero but a sore loser and liar

IF THE OFFER OF JOSE "JOEY" DE Venecia III was for a BOO (build-operate-own) or BOT (build-operate-transfer) National Broadband Network (NBN) project, then:

Why did he have to see Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos? Why did he have to meet ZTE officials repeatedly? Why did he meet with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo? Why did he have to go to China? All he needed to do was to convince Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza of the unassailable merits of his bid.

Answer: Joey was not pushing Amsterdam Holdings' BOO/BOT offer. He was trying to convince ZTE, using his father, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Abalos, to grant his company, Amsterdam, what ZTE gave to his former company, Multimedia Telephony Inc. (MTI), now owned by Ricky Razon et al.

Joey could not possibly make a BOT/BOO offer because his company doesn't have enough funds to undertake the project. Joey made the offer so Romulo Neri, his father's puppet, would be able to issue a "comfort letter" to him, so that JDV would be able to pressure all the parties concerned.

But obviously, JDV's clout didn't work. And Joey, not used to not getting what he wants, went to media and messed up the story; even presented himself as a hero. No, Joey is not a hero, he is simply a sore loser and a liar.

Why did PLDT commission UP to make the study that found the ZTE offer overpriced?

Answer: Because Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT's top honcho, wanted to be part of the NBN-ZTE deal but Razon refused. And if the NBN project pushes through, the government's telephone and cell phone bills will be cut by 50 percent.

Lawyer Roel Pulido, a former counsel of the Magdalo group of rebel military officers, has filed an ethics complaint at the House of Representatives against JDV for "abetting the criminal acts of his son" when the latter "illegally sought and secured a congressional franchise for his firm, Multimedia Telephony, while his father was the top House official."

Pulido claims that when Joey's MTI applied for and acquired a congressional franchise, JDV was the Speaker and, thus, he violated the anti-graft law; that Joey repeated the offense when MTI later "had its franchise enlarged, also while his father was Speaker"; that Joey "repeated the violation" when he submitted an uninvited proposal to install a broadband network for the government.

JDV lied when he said that in 1993, his son Joey was no longer connected with MTI or Broadband Phils.

You want the truth? Log on to Yahoo or Google and then type: Multimedia Telephony Jose de Venecia III. And you will find out that Joey was the founder, chair and operating officer of MTI or Broadband Philippines when it was issued its franchise in 1995 and when the same franchise was expanded in 1997—during the time his father was the Speaker.

—MANUEL LACSON, lacson.manuel@yahoo.com

Miriam's money ethic unrealistic

WHENEVER THERE ARE PEOPLE who expose the rotten deals being made by one or another member of the First Family, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago quickly concludes that they are being paid a big sum of money. The testimony of Vidal Doble and Jose "Joey" de Venecia III at the Senate, according to Santiago, are part of a destabilization plan probably financed by forces that are against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Well, is this the way the senator thinks because the President always rewards with money, projects or positions the people who shamelessly defend the First Family? A good example is the senator herself. She has become a rabid GMA fan and her husband a presidential adviser. Her son became a representative of a party-list organization which was accredited by the Commission on Elections only after her son became its No. 1 nominee.

Senator Santiago must be told that not all people who oppose the corrupt ways of the administration do it for financial gain. There are still many individuals who have the moral courage to call a spade a spade, to stand by their beliefs and principles even if it means earning the ire of the powerful.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO, advocacy officer, Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services (PARRDS), 85 K-10th, Kamias, QC

Noynoy not with Joker in bid to probe Inquirer

THIS IS TO MAKE A CLARIFICATION ON THE news story which named Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III as one of four senators who "readily backed [Senator] Arroyo's resolution for an inquiry." ("Probe of PDI, 4 solons sought over leak on secret meeting," INQUIRER, 10/3/07)

Senator Aquino does not support such an investigation, contrary to what was suggested by the news item and the succeeding articles related to this issue.

Section 128 of the Senate Rules clearly states that "The President as well as the Senators and the officials and employees of the Senate shall absolutely refrain from divulging any of the confidential matters taken up by the Senate, and all proceedings which might have taken place in the Senate in connection with the said matters shall be likewise considered as strictly confidential until the Senate, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all its Members, decides to lift the ban of secrecy."

However, as Senator Aquino pointed out in the interpellation immediately following Sen. Joker Arroyo's privilege speech on Oct. 2, 2007, the claim that Juliet Labog-Javellana's report was a "complete falsehood" indicated that her sources did not divulge any "confidential matters taken up by the Senate." In other words, if Javellana's report was indeed an inaccurate recounting of events, then the rule on executive sessions could not have been violated, making the conduct of any investigation into the matter unnecessary.

—JULIA ANDREA ABAD, chief of staff, Office of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III

Scrap agri-business deals with Chinese firms

THE SUSPENSION BY AGRICULTURE SECretary Arthur Yap of two of the 19 agreements allowing Chinese corporations to lease 1.4 million hectares of agricultural land in the Philippines—this after the controversial National Broadband Network-ZTE Corp. deal had been exposed—reeks of opportunism. The move is obviously meant more to protect Yap and other government officials from public scrutiny than to submit to a genuine concern to consult with various stakeholders, as Yap claimed.

Yap is scared that, like Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, he will have to defend his complicity in suspicious, if not graft-ridden, deals sanctioned by the administration.

The suspension does not free Yap, other public officials and the private corporations involved from culpability.

Moreover, the two agreements should not only be suspended; they should be cancelled altogether. As for the remaining 17 agreements, they should also be investigated.

—ED MORA, Task Force Food Sovereignty, 87 Malakas St., Pinyahan, QC

Comic relief

I JOIN THOSE WHO are thankful that Raul Gonzalez is ready to go back to his job as justice secretary. He has provided constant comic relief to all the sordid news reported by media. My family and I relish many of the secretary's utterly ridiculous and provocative pronouncements.

He is the exact opposite of former US Attorney General Janet Reno who perceived her position in the Clinton Cabinet as the primary server of justice outside the US courts of law. She even had Clinton investigated!

Our justice secretary serves only his President and will do everything in his power to prevent his President from being investigated under our laws.

—ROCKY DENOGA, rocden41 @yahoo.com

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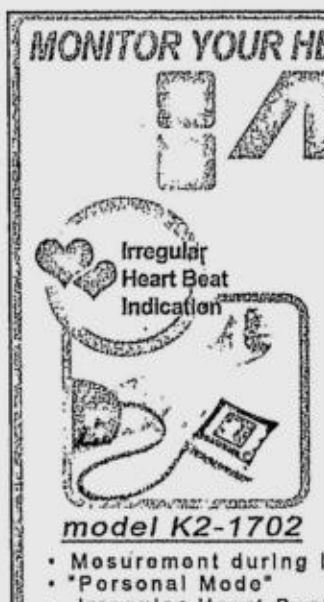

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SEN. Joker Arroyo, in a privilege speech, wants the INQUIRER to reveal its four sources in the alleged breach of secrecy of the Senate's executive session. ROGER MARGALLO

Joker can't expect to be sacred cow forever

From page A1

Arroyo was offended more by the fact that the story revealed his intervention than by what he claimed was a breach of the Senate's rule of confidentiality of proceedings of its executive session. He denounced the story—based on leaks from four unnamed sources—as "totally false."

Now, Arroyo paints himself as the defender of the "sanctity" of the confidentiality of the executive session.

What Neri said in the session is not the issue. The minority leader, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who had moved for the Senate inquiry into the ZTE deal, reported that Neri said absolutely nothing in the 30-minute session. Now, it's Arroyo on the spot.

Before Senator Arroyo's exchange with the INQUIRER over the publication of the executive session story (by reporter Juliet Labog-Javellana), he had been a fair-haired boy of most of media. They lapped up all he said at face value. They took his reputation for being independent-minded uncritically.

This uncritical view has always made me uncomfortable, because a healthy skepticism of politicians' and officials' actions is required to ensure balanced and fair reporting.

Independence questioned

Since Senator Arroyo won reelection in May on the administration ticket, his independence has been increasingly questioned.

For example, Sen. Panfilo Lacson has criticized Arroyo for soft-pedaling on the Senate blue ribbon committee investigation (when Arroyo was chair in the last Congress) into the Jose Pidal account of the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Since his reelection, Joker Arroyo has been squirming at suggestions of his apparently defensive positions on issues embarrassing to the President. He has struggled mightily to maintain the credibility of his independence in the face of mounting skepticism. He should expect more of this.

Before Senator Arroyo starts to obfuscate the issues over the Senate executive session, certain facts have been established and are undisputed.

Resolution No. 165

Senate Resolution No. 165, tabled by Senator Arroyo, directs the Senate to conduct an inquiry into violations of Senate Rule No. 47 relating to the confidential nature of the proceedings in the executive session as a consequence of the PDI story.

The resolution singled out for investigation "any/or all senators and nonsenators, who were present" during the executive session, and sought sanctions including the expulsion from the Senate of senators who may be found to have breached the rules.

Although the resolution did not explicitly cite the reporter and the newspaper that published the offending story for investigation, one out of 13 "whereas" clauses referred to the INQUIRER story of Oct. 3. This implicitly includes them in the scope of the investigation.

It is what the resolution did not say that prompted INQUIRER editors to regard it as a threat to the right of the reporter to respect the confidentiality of information given by sources inside the executive session.

Narrowing down suspects

One whereas clause of Resolution No. 165 establishes the fact that "almost all the senators were present" in the executive session, fixing the focus of the investigation into the identities of the four senators who were the confidential sources of the reporter and who leaked the story of Joker Arroyo's intervention, making them the targets of the investigation.

In this process of narrowing down the suspects, the reporter will necessarily be summoned to identify her sources. Senators Arroyo and Juan Ponce Enrile have threatened the reporter with being held in contempt of the Senate if she did not identify her sources.

The job of the reporter thus in the investigation is to act as the instrument to ferret out the four senators who leaked the story.

Arroyo was less than candid, or honest, when he said in his statement, published by the INQUIRER on Oct. 13, that the newspaper was throwing up a straw man as an imagined enemy.

It said: "Everyone at the INQUIRER is at the ramparts scanning the horizon for enemies that are not there, for the inquiry will be of the Senate by the Senate without any regard to the INQUIRER."

A masterpiece of duplicity

The statement, which is a masterpiece of duplicity, said: "At no point will the INQUIRER itself be investigated, only the senators and the others who were present at the executive session. Ms Javellana may invoke the confidentiality of her sources and to stop herself from revealing their identifies, not to stop the Senate from finding it out for itself." (Can it?)

Reporters who have covered Senate hearings as torture chambers are all too familiar with the brutality to which the well-honed skills of such interrogators as Senators Arroyo, Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, to mention only a few, have been applied to bully and abuse witnesses at the hearings. We don't crave to be their willing victims.

Arroyo complained: "With characteristic imbalance, the INQUIRER extended to me a single slanted headline coupled with a predictably editorialized news account of Senate Resolution No. 165."

What does he want the newspaper to do? Let him hog the front page? That's not our idea of balance.

Arroyo can't expect to be the press' sacred cow for all time.

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Fireworks, band greet . . .

From page A1

ments and was borne on a *carroza* (wheeled carriage) adorned with pink roses.

The Catholic Church yesterday commemorated the centenary of the canonical coronation of La Naval de Manila.

Crowned in 1907 on orders of Pope Pius X, La Naval was the first Marian icon in the Philippines to be so canonically crowned. The coronation drew the biggest crowd during its time and was attended by dignitaries from the Asian churches.

The procession of Our Lady of La Naval started at 5:30 p.m. Images of saints, placed on a *carroza*, came out of the church, including San Lorenzo Ruiz, St. Joseph the Carpenter and finally, the Virgen de la Naval.

The crowd attending the procession showed a quiet devotion, with none of the jostling to get near the carriage, unlike other religious processions like the feast of the Black Nazarene of Quiapo.

Instead, the devotees lighted the way with candles and prayed the rosary. Some waved white handkerchiefs, others couldn't help but record the event with their video cameras or their cell phones.

The procession went around the streets on the periphery of Santo Domingo Church. Only the southbound lane of Quezon Avenue was closed to traffic.

Just before 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of La Naval was back home.

This time, she was greeted with fireworks, a band, applause and cheers as she entered the church.

Rev. Louie Coronel, media relations officer of La Naval festivities, said some 10,000 people attended the event.

DEVOTEES take part in the La Naval de Manila procession along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. EDWIN BACASMAS

The reason is Mary

Earlier in the day, Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi said Mary is the reason, in the face of suffering, people are not more bitter or more angry.

"I've often wondered how despite so much suffering and hatred, our people are not more bitter, are not more angry. How is it in the midst of all this hatred ... hope does not die," Legaspi said yesterday during his homily at the La Naval Mass at the Santo Domingo Church. "I think the answer is Mary. She tells us again and again that we must keep the faith and trust in each other."

He said the country was battling an enemy coming from within society, "a crushing tide of social malaise." This would come in the form of poverty, corruption and other societal ills.

He cited the electorate that chose corrupt leaders and politicians who claimed they had to be corrupt because of an electorate that expected handouts.

Stupid issues

He said the Senate spent its time with "stupid issues," while student leaders dreamt of going abroad, thinking the fight for change was obsolete.

Legaspi said the source of these problems was the people's disunity. "The root cause of this social malaise that is killing our nation is our inability to work together for the nation."

The prelate said the solution did not lie with Congress nor in the electoral process.

He said Mary could bring Filipinos together.

"Mary our mother has always been for our people and for our nation, from the beginnings of Christianity in our land, a symbol and creative agent of our oneness as a people, of our country as a nation," he said.

Barefoot procession

The Marian image known as Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, La Naval de Manila, is believed to have helped Filipino and Spanish forces defeat Dutch invaders who tried to gain possession of the country in 1646.

With no more than two merchant galleons facing off with 18 Dutch warships, Commander Lorenzo de Orella y Ugalde vowed to the Blessed Mother in the Santo Domingo Church in Intramuros that if they win the battle, the crew would make a pilgrimage to the church.

Five battles were fought, and the undermanned Filipino and Spanish forces emerged triumphant. To fulfill the vow, the crew held a procession—barefoot—around the church.

Declared miraculous

On April 9, 1662, the five battles of La Naval were later proclaimed a victory of confirmed Marian and divine intercession by the Cathedral Chapter of the Archdiocese of Manila. The five battles were declared miraculous.

In October 1907, La Naval de Manila was canonically crowned upon the orders of Pope Pius X, a first in the country and in Asia.

A canonical coronation is an act of the Pope wherein the Roman Catholic Church recognizes an image of the Virgin Mary under a specific name being venerated in a specific place.

The venerated image should be historically old, acclaimed, and in times of need serves as a beacon of faith and hope among the people. It also manifests recognition of the fervent devotion of the faithful.

It is believed that the 1986 People Power revolution, a bloodless uprising that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos, received assistance from La Naval de Manila. A replica of the image was brought to the gates of Malacañang during rosary vigils and processions preceding Marcos' abdication of his office.

Did Pulido sell his soul for 30 pieces of silver?

From page A1

"real" impeachment effort sooner or later.

Whatever the case, it is a decision that seemed unbecoming of him and clearly disappointed those who had known him since his days as a student activist at the University of the Philippines and later, at the Ateneo College of Law.

Before entering law school, he had spent significant time working for the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, a nongovernment organization. The involvement was not unrelated to his constant presence in street marches during the 1980s.

"Many of us in the (activist) movement felt betrayed by his actions," said lawyer Argee Guevarra, one of Pulido's fellow counsels in the Magdalo mutiny case. Guevarra made very little effort to conceal his dismay in a lengthy commentary he sent to the INQUIRER.

In the article, Guevarra described the Pulido complaint as "history repeating itself as a comical farce," a reference to a purportedly similar and "preemptive" complaint initiated by lawyer Oliver Lozano against Ms Arroyo in 2005.

Guevarra said that he, too, that same year had been "approached by an individual sympathetic to Malacañang about filing an impeachment case against (Ms Arroyo) in exchange for an unspecified sum of money."

Intense heat

Pulido acknowledged the intense heat he had gotten since filing the complaint solely on the basis of Senate testimonies on the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) scandal.

In fact, he said his mobile phone had since been peppered with angry messages, both from nameless strangers and familiar but suddenly suspicious friends.

"Many of the messages are so vicious that some of my friends don't forward them to me anymore," he told the INQUIRER last week.

So, is Pulido a changed man, suddenly stripped of legitimate advocacies built upon his high-profile legal work with the Magdalo soldiers?

"I'm still the same guy, nothing's changed," he said, inviting his critics to look into similarly important pro bono cases he's been handling quietly over the years.

The "other side" of Pulido can supposedly be gleaned in the case of an 18-year-old college sophomore who died in the hands of an abortionist in Batangas.

Another case involved a poor waitress in his favorite Japanese restaurant who was accused of stealing the day's earning and "terrorized."

"I had friends who were quick to judge my motives even without hearing me out," he said.

Distrustful soldiers

Seemingly distrustful were Pulido's former clients from the Magdalo soldiers, including Antonio Trillanes IV, now a senator.

In his commentary, Guevarra cited Trillanes' observation on the Pulido complaint:

"Atty. Pulido has a penchant for calling publicity to himself more than to his client's interests or to his purported advocacies. It was thus uncharacteristic for him to file the impeachment complaint last Friday, when offices were about to close, without media fanfare for something which is of national political significance. When he filed an ethics complaint against Speaker (Jose) De Venecia, he turned it into a media circus. Why then did he become media-shy all of a sudden?"

Pulido quit as Magdalo counsel in November last year.

"Even if they're my friends, they didn't consider me as among them because I was not a soldier," Pulido said. "But we agreed that it's to their advantage if we would go our separate ways."

Unfazed by criticism

Pulido said he had heard all the criticism on the impeachment complaint—a paid hack, Malacañang lackey, a monumental sellout.

He said he was not exactly unfazed. On the day he heard accusations he was getting money from Malacañang, he said, "my bank called me up saying I was defaulting on my car loan payment."

"I don't mind people questioning my motives, my tactics, or even my professional competence. But don't question my integrity," he said.

"My conscience is clear, I can face anyone, anywhere, anytime," Pulido said. "I draw energy in the belief that I didn't do anything wrong. I performed something out of a sense of responsibility."

What kind of a man he is is yet to be seen.

'Acceptable presence' new US basing plan

From page A1

Presence and Basing Strategy," the plan seeks to comprehensively transform the US overseas military presence—largely unchanged since the 1950s—in light of perceived new threats and the United States' self-avowed "grand strategy" of perpetuating its status as the world's only military superpower.

"The [US] military," declared President George W. Bush, "must be ready to strike at a moment's notice in any dark corner of the world." To do this, the 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), an official document required by the US Congress of the Pentagon to articulate US military strategy, stated that the United States was seeking to move away from "obsolete Cold War garrisons" to "mobile, expeditionary operations."

Reduced footprint

The plan is simple: Instead of concentrating its troops and equipment in only a few locations, the United States will decrease the number of large well-equipped bases and increase the number of smaller, simpler bases in more locations.

Marine Gen. James Jones, commander of US forces in Europe, described the aim as developing a "family of bases" that could go "from cold to warm to hot if you need them" but without having the "small town USA"-feel, complete with schools and families that have typically come with such bases.

Recognition of the rising opposition to the US military presence around the world is also driving these changes. As early as 1988, a US government commission created during the Reagan administration concluded: "We have found it increasingly difficult, and politically costly to maintain bases."

Apart from those in the Philippines, US bases have been closed or terminated in recent years in Puerto Rico, Panama and, recently, Ecuador, as a result of public mobilizations. Turkey refused to allow the United States to use its bases for the invasion of Iraq. Even in Japan and Korea, hostility to US bases has been growing.

Hence, the United States has been trying to restructure its overseas presence in a way that aims to undermine this growing opposition. As US Navy Rear Admiral Richard Hunt, the Joint Staff's deputy director for strategy and policy said: "We don't want to be stepping all over our host nations ... We want to exist in a very non-intrusive way."

The aim, according to the Pentagon, is to "reduce the forward footprint" of the military while increasing its agility and flexible.

Mission presence

As part of this overall reconfiguration, the Pentagon now categorizes its overseas structures into three—Main Operating Bases (MOBs), Forward Operating Sites (FOSs), and Cooperative Security Locations (CSLs). ***(See "In the Know")***

The FOSs and CSLs are also called "lily pads" intended to allow the United States to hop from MOBs to their destinations rapidly when needed but without requiring a lot of resources to keep them running when not needed. Referring to this kind of base, General Jones said, "We could use it for six months, turn off the lights, and go to another base if we need to."

But, as mentioned earlier, the US definition of "global posture" goes way beyond physical structures. In an effort to maximize its forward presence while minimizing opposition, the United States has also been seeking to increase what US Air Force-sponsored analysts call "mission presence" and "limited access."

"Mission presence" is what the United States has in countries where there are ongoing military missions which "lack the breadth and capability to qualify as true forward presence but nonetheless contribute to the overall US posture abroad."

"Limited access" is the kind the United States gets through exercises, visits, and other operations.

Hence, the US global posture encompasses, by definition, not just those who are "forward-based," or those units that are stationed in foreign countries on a long-term basis such as troops in Korea and Japan, but also those who are "forward-deployed," or those who are sent overseas to conduct various kinds of deployments, exercises, or operations.

Greatest potential to compete

If, in the Cold War, US overseas presence targeted the Soviet Union and other communist and nationalist forces in the Third World, today, the US current "global posture" is aimed at any state or non-state forces perceived to be threatening US interests.

"Terrorists" stand in the line of fire. Regional powers hostile to the United States, such as Iran and North Korea, have also been singled out. But, in light of the United States' self-declared grand strategy of preventing the rise of rivals who could threaten its preeminent status, one rising power is now clearly in its sights—China.

For years, American officials have been divided between those who believe that China could be a "strategic partner" to be engaged and those who believe that it is a "strategic competitor" to be confronted militarily before it grows more powerful. Since the end of the Cold War, indications are that the latter view has prevailed.

As early as 1997, the Pentagon's QDR had already identified China, along with Russia, as possible "global peer competitors." In 1999, a pivotal Pentagon think tank conducted a seminar to lay down all the likely scenarios involving China. Its conclusion: no matter what happens, China's rise will not be "peaceful" for the United States.

In 2000, a US Air Force-funded study argued explicitly in favor of preventing China's rise. Also in the same year, Robert Kagan and William Kristol, two influential commentators whose ideas have evidently molded US policy, proposed that Beijing—along with Baghdad—be targeted for "regime-change."

The Project for the New American Century, a grouping whose members and proposals have since staffed and shaped the Bush administration and its policies, supported the same aims and made similar recommendations.

During the US presidential elections, George W. Bush distinguished himself from other candidates by singling out China as a "strategic competitor." Since then, various officials have successively warned that military modernization constitutes a direct threat to the United States.

The Pentagon's 2006 official report to Congress on China stated: "China's military expansion is already such as to alter regional military balances."

If, in 2001, the QDR was still vaguely worded, by 2006, when the next QDR was released, the assessment became more explicit: "Of the major and emerging powers, China has the greatest potential to compete militarily with the United States."

Moving to Southeast Asia

The problem for the United States is its relatively weak presence in Asia. As a Pentagon report on China, whose conclusions have been widely echoed, warned: "Lack of forward operating bases or cooperative allies greatly limits the range of US military responses."

What the United States does have in terms of presence is now believed to be concentrated in the wrong place. Since the 1950s, the bulk of the US forward-presence in Asia has been in South Korea and Japan, directed toward the Soviet Union and North Korea. To address this, the United States has been seeking to expand southward—to Southeast Asia.

By early 2002, the United States began negotiating with various governments in Southeast Asia for use of bases in the region. In 2003, then US Pacific Command chief Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, stated: "Power projection and contingency response in Southeast Asia in the future will depend on this network of US access in areas with little or no permanent American basing structure."

Along with the plans for East Asia and Southeast Asia, the United States has established bases to the west of China, in Central Asia, with new installations in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. While it had none before the invasion of Afghanistan, by 2002 it had access to over a dozen bases in the region.

With the US forward presence northeast of China (in Japan and South Korea), the deepening cooperation with Mongolia to China's north, and its deepening alliance with India, to China's southwest, the United States is slowly encircling China from all sides.

It is in light of these large, sweeping changes in US strategy, its perception of threats, and its tactics, that US military objectives regarding the Philippines can be best understood.

Herbert Docena (herbert@focusweb.org) is a researcher with Focus on the Global South, a policy research institute.)

IN THE KNOW

Categories of US overseas military structures

- **MAIN OPERATING BASES** (MOBs) are those relatively larger installations and facilities located in the territory of reliable allies, with vast infrastructure and family support facilities that will serve as the hub of operations in support of smaller, more austere bases. Examples are the Ramstein Air Base in Germany, the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, and Camp Humphreys in Korea.
- **Forward Operating Sites** (FOSs) are smaller, more spare bases that could be expanded and then scaled down as needed. They will store pre-positioned equipment but will only normally host a small number of troops on a rotational, as opposed to permanent, basis. While smaller, they must still be able to quickly support a range of operations with back-up from MOBs.
- **Cooperative Security Locations** (CSLs) are facilities owned by host governments that would only be used by the United States in case of actual operations. Though they could be visited and inspected by the United States, they would most likely be run and maintained by host-nation personnel or even private contractors. Useful for pre-positioning logistics support or as venues for joint operations with host militaries, they may also be expanded to become FOSs if necessary

Source: US Department of Defense, "Strengthening US Global Defense Posture," September 2004.

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PhilHealth probes cataract claims

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORP. (PhilHealth) has ordered a stop to payment of claims for cataract surgery during medical missions and through recruitment schemes amid reports of irregularities in claims of hospitals and doctors in Western Visayas involving at least P390 million.

In Circular No. 17 series of 2007, PhilHealth Acting President and Chief Executive Officer Lorna Fajardo ordered the discontinuance of the payments for all claims for cataract operations with admission dates starting Nov. 1.

The circular did not cite the reasons but it was issued amid persistent reports of alleged padding of PhilHealth claims for cataract operations that were supposed to be free treatments during medical missions and irregularities in the recruitment of patients.

Lawyer Jay Villegas, manager of PhilHealth's Fact-Finding and Administrative Investigation Department, said two hospitals and two doctors in Western Visayas were being investigated for possible abuse of the insurance system. He declined to identify the doctors and hospitals saying this might preempt their findings.

The alleged irregularities involve millions of pesos that were paid to hospitals and ophthalmologists in Western Visayas for cataract operations.

PhilHealth also investigated complaints that hospitals and doctors padded their claims by including medicines and services that were not availed of by the cataract patients.

A PhilHealth position paper on the cataract cases dated Aug. 1, 2005, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, said the patients were recruited and screened "in the guise of free medical outreach programs" through "recruiters-agents" sent out by ophthalmologists in coordination with the hospitals where the operations were performed.

While targeting mostly PhilHealth members and dependents, the organizers did not explain to their patients that PhilHealth would be paying for the hospital expenses.

Non-PhilHealth members were advised to enroll as voluntary members to wait for their eligibility period or else shoulder the operation cost, according to the paper, which was based on results of an investigation conducted by the PhilHealth Western Visayas office.

"The information about free surgery was not true and thus constitutes deception," it said.

The position paper said the patients who were attracted by the promises of free operation, meals, transportation and accommodation were then transported to hospitals in Bacolod City. It pointed out that these recruitment campaigns were done without coordination with PhilHealth.

The recruiters-agents, including barangay officials, health workers and even a secretary of an ophthalmologist, were reportedly paid P300 for each patient, according to the position paper.

PhilHealth paid 19,145 cataract-related claims reaching around P390 million to hospitals and doctors in Western Visayas from January 2004 to June 2007, according to data from PhilHealth's Corporate Planning Department.

The Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) has decried the manner of getting patients by using recruiters-agents or "seekers." PAO has 1,300 members and 10 regional chapters.

"It is unethical, said PAO national president Dr. Ma. Dominga Padilla, in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER."

Feud over SCTEx interchanges in Pampanga towns worsens

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PAMPANGA Gov. Eddie Panlilio said he was seeking an audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop what business groups perceived as efforts by Malacañang officials to rush the interchanges proposed by local officials for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

The interchanges were pushed by Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and Rep. Carmelo Lazatin for the northern Pampanga side of the P27-billion SCTEx.

"We want to be given an equal opportunity to correct the misleading facts and figures [presented in last Thursday's meeting in Malacañang]. We just hope the two interchanges are not railroaded," Panlilio said of the purpose of the planned meeting with Ms Arroyo.

He moved in to intervene on behalf of business groups and local officials after Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan, chair of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council and Luzon Urban Beltway Super Region Council, wrote a memorandum to the Bases Conversion Development Authority on Oct. 9.

Pamintuan's memorandum, issued to BCDA president Narciso Abaya, said: "May I inform you that as per information relayed to me [on Oct. 8] by [Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel] Arroyo (the President's eldest son), the President has approved of the proposals for the construction of two interchanges of the SCTEx located in Hacienda Dolores, Porac and Anunas-Friendship area in Angeles City."

"In this regard, may I inform you that the President now wants us to immediately meet together with Congressman Mikey (Arroyo), Tarzan [Lazatin] and Secretary [Cerge] Remonde [director general of the Presidential Management Staff] ... to discuss the implementation of the project."

Pamintuan confirmed having sent the memorandum to Abaya.

This memorandum prompted Panlilio, San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, Levy Laus, president of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and Rene Romero, chair of the Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon, to ask Representative Arroyo to allow them to attend the Oct. 11 meeting to assert an interchange in Barangay Manuali, also in Porac.

Representative Arroyo agreed, which was how the local leaders managed to be part of the meeting.

Pamintuan said the President had approved the interchanges proposed by Lapid and Lazatin.

When sought for confirmation if Ms Arroyo had made that decision, Representative Arroyo said: "Sorry, I don't know."

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

NPA raids another Globe cell site in Camarines Sur

DARAGA, ALBAY—SUSPECTED NEW People's Army rebels raided and torched another Globe Telecommunications cell site in Camarines Sur Saturday morning.

Military reports say that four young men carrying armalite rifles broke into the cell site compound located at Barangay Sibujo in Libmanan town, held at gunpoint the security guard on duty and robbed him of his .38-caliber revolver and cellphone.

The suspects then poured gasoline on the cell site generator and outdoor cabin and set them on fire.

The generator was completely damaged while the outdoor cabin was partially damaged, the report added.

Last Sept. 17, a Globe relay station in Barangay Tinanguihan located in the same town was burned along with a cell site in Barangay Batang in Pamplona town in the same province.

The arson was reportedly carried out by 20 NPA members.

The detachable cabin damaged in the relay station alone was estimated to have cost P1.6 million.

Sgt. Armando Escote, officer in charge of the 21st Civil Relations Unit of the Armed Forces in Bicol, said the continuing attacks were reportedly due to the refusal of the telecommunications company to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the NPA in the region.

NPA members were also believed to be behind the torching last month of a Globe tower in Barangay Sapngan in Bulusan town in Sorsogon province.

Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer S. Luzon

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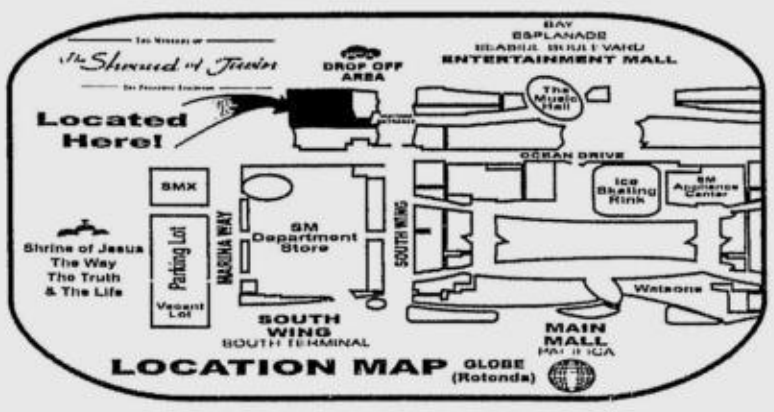

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Crackdown fails to drive out Vizcaya small miners

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Government agencies launched a crackdown on illegal mining this week, but this has failed to drive out small miners from their tunnels in Kasibu town, reports reaching the INQUIRER said.

Residents said about 200 small-scale miners had gone back to reopen the tunnels in Barangay Didipio, which environment officials and policemen closed down in a three-day operation that began on Oct. 8.

The miners returned after officials of OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (Ogpi), a foreign mining firm, allegedly failed to provide assurance that they would be paid for property that were either lost or damaged in the crackdown, the villagers said.

"They've closed down our tunnels, so where are we supposed to get our daily sustenance? All that company officials were saying was that they were first going to study our claims," said one miner, who asked not to be named for reasons of safety.

Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, escorted by about 120 policemen, mounted the crackdown against a group of men who have been supposedly mining illegally on Dinkidi Hill, site of Ogpi's proposed gold-copper project in Didipio.

Clarence Baguilat, environment director in Cagayan Valley, said members of the Task Force Didipio were sent to clear the mine site of illegal miners and to allow the development of the project.

Roberto Apigo, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the team padlocked ball mills used in the illegal mining operations, and blocked about 20 tunnel entrances with planks of wood.

The villager said the miners returned to the site at dusk on Oct. 10 to reopen the tunnels and cut the steel chains that were wrapped around the balls mills.

The miners were demanding payment for the cost of the materials that they had spent in constructing the tunnels, their tools, and the body of ore that they had already dug up and had stored inside the holes.

Demanding payment

"Some of the government personnel knew that we were reopening the tunnels, but they did not prevent us because they understood our position," one tunnel operator said.

Ogpi officials, however, said the company would not grant all the miners' claims for payment.

"The [crackdown] is a government operation to stop illegal small-scale mining in the province which we are not a party to. We [will not] compensate their closed tunnels or [their] displacement," said Ramoncito Gozar, Ogpi vice president for communications and community relations.

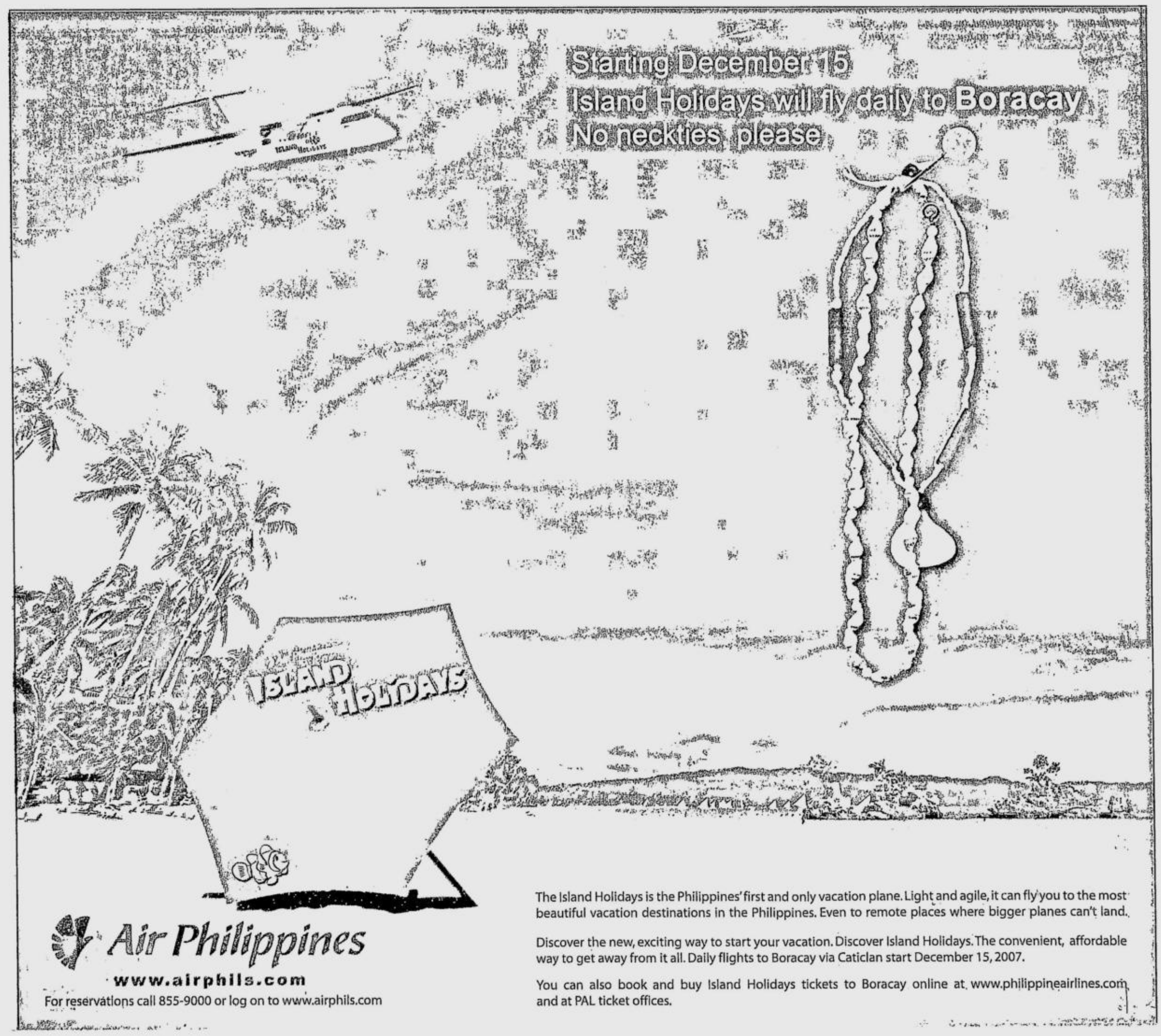
The company has been offering jobs and livelihood for the miners who will be displaced by the operation in the spirit of partnership, but they have refused it, he said.

Apigo declined to comment on the reopening of the small miners' tunnels.

Senior Supt. Segundo Duran, provincial police director, who leads the police contingent of Task Force Didipio, said some miners insisted on reopening the tunnels after receiving word that the provincial government was inclined to give them small-scale mining permits.

Vice Gov. Jose Gambito, former chair of the provincial small-scale mining regulatory board, confirmed this.

"I think [the miners] have filed their applications. If they are qualified and allowed by law, why [can't they be given permits]?" Gambito said.



RP celebrates World Food Day & World Rural Women's Day

MESSAGES

Malacañan Palace
Manila

Greetings to everyone as we celebrate the 2007 World Food Day.

Millions of Filipinos face poverty and hunger everyday. Thus, the Philippine government has exerted all efforts in minimizing and eventually solving these problems.

The Department of Agriculture is tasked to lead in implementing vital government programs such as the Bagsakan Centers and Barangay Food Terminals which aim to bring quality and inexpensive food items to our people. Other projects, such as the "Gulayan ng Masa" and "Food For School", are also geared towards achieving the same objectives.

This year's World Food Day celebration, with the theme, "The Right to Food", signifies a call for all of us to come together and recognize the right of every individual to food. It also affirms the government's efforts to ensure that every man, woman, and child of this nation should not live in hunger and poverty.

Happy World Food Day to all!!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Pangulo

KAGAWARAN NG PAGSASAKA

This year's World Food Day theme "The Right to Food" signifies the right of every person to have access to quality, safe, and affordable food. This means that the right to food cannot be implemented in isolation from other human rights, like the right to education, right to work, right to health, and freedom of assembly and association.

In the Philippines, the challenge that confronts our nation today is how to drive agriculture's growth beyond 'modest' rates and into a sustained, far higher pace- at least a yearly average of about 5%-6% for the next decade that can be felt by our rural folk in terms of better living standards for their families and by our consumers, in general, by way of plentiful and more affordable foodstuff.

The right to food does not only concern the outcome of food security but also the process towards achieving it. Projects and initiatives aimed at local empowerment and a participatory and transparent policy process are being showcased.

World Rural Women's Day theme: The Right to Food: Rural Women act and produce. Infants and young children are most vulnerable to malnutrition. The education of women is the key to improving child nutrition.

A study showed that women's education was the most significant contributor to declines in malnutrition. Even a few years of education helps mothers to improve the nutrition and health of their children.

As we ponder this challenge of sustained, higher growth, we take cognizance of the pressures that will be exerted on food production performance as brought about by an increasing population that is steadily breaking the curve on longevity; the tension between energy and food needs for staple grains, and the deteriorating state of our environment.

Our goal is to translate high farm productivity into greater profits for our food producers and cheaper commodities for our consumers. We recognized that without increased farm production, with genuine increase in rural income, sustainable agriculture growth will remain an illusive dream.

We at the Department of Agriculture are addressing this challenge by implementing a five-point program comprising higher public spending on (1) infrastructure, (2) technology and extension services and (3) postharvest and storage facilities; (4) expanding access to rural credit; and (5) opening up new markets here and abroad for local produce.

Through this five-pronged approach, we hope to one day guarantee every Filipino's inherent right to food and good nutrition.

ARTHUR C. YAP
Kalihim

As we have often stated, our planet produces enough food to adequately feed its entire population. Yet 854 million women, men and children will go to sleep on an empty stomach.

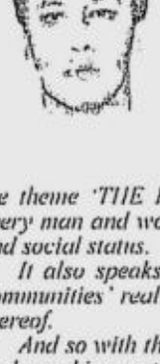
"The Right to Food" has been chosen to be the theme of this year's World Food Day so that the voice of the disadvantaged may be heard. The theme reflects the international community's growing awareness of the crucial role of human rights in eradicating hunger and poverty.

Freedom from hunger is one of the fundamental goals set out in FAO's Constitution. At the 1996 World Food Summit, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed "The right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger."

The right to food calls for a shift in paradigm from charity to rights. Ensuring that every human being has an adequate and stable supply of food is more than a moral imperative or an investment with potentially huge economic returns: it is the realization of a basic human right. And the world has the means to realize that right.

This promise, conceived in the 20th century should come to fruition in the 21st century. That is why, on this World Food Day of 2007, I invite you to join me in making the right to food a tangible reality for all.

Kazuyuki Tsurumi
Director General, FAO-UN



The World Food Day (WFD) is a global activity which brings all the nations of the world together to collectively address the issues on hunger, malnutrition, and poverty which in turn have created other social issues and public concerns.

In the Philippines, the rate of hungry Filipinos grows rapidly each day, some result to sickness, others to death --- a sad reality we have to face, and eventually resolve.

This year's WFD celebration underscores the theme 'THE RIGHT TO FOOD" an essential human right of every man and woman, regardless of color, gender, religion, culture and social status.

It also speaks of the worldwide concern and the international communities' realization of an ongoing battle with food, and lack thereof.

And so with this year, let us celebrate WFD '07 by joining hands and reaching out to one another with unified mission of bringing sustainable and sufficient food to all and a renewed respect for every man's "RIGHT TO FOOD".

SALVADOR S. SALACUP
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, National Steering Committee, WFD '07

World Food Day '07 presents the RIGHT TO FOOD.

On the Spot Poster Making Contest and other activities.

Today, October 15, 2007 marks the day when the country, together with other nations, celebrates the 2007 World Food Day (WFD), a worldwide event observed in all parts of the globe.

This year's event will observe with the theme "The Right to Food" and will highlight every person's right to sufficient, quality, safe and affordable food at all times.

The theme plays an important role in mobilizing political will and calls for the worldwide realization of the human right to adequate food by ensuring its respect, protection and fulfillment everywhere. Thus, this year's activities serve as an important milestone to underscore every man's right to food.

The theme was chosen by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to demonstrate the increasing recognition of the international community on the important role of human rights in eradicating hunger and poverty, and hastening and deepening the sustainable development process.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said that in line with the worldwide cry for "The Right to Food", various activities have been organized to emphasize the collective efforts of the government and the private sector towards the attainment of food sufficiency and sustainability. These goals are geared towards providing access to food for every man, woman and child.

Various agribusiness investment fora for the public will be sponsored by the Department of Agriculture's bureaus and attached agencies such as on coffee production and processing, dairy production and processing, goat production, and business opportunities for meat processing, tropical fishes, and seaweeds, Yap added.

And to recognize the efforts and contributions of various stakeholders in helping the Department realize its goals for the Filipino people, DA will be awarding those who extended outstanding performance to the DA's projects such as suppliers of Barangay Food Terminals (BFTs) and Bagsakans, market administrators, BFT Operators and barangay captains of successful BFTs.

Annually, the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), conducts the National On the Spot Poster Making Contest as one of the highlights of the WFD celebration.

The event, which is open to all Grade IV to VI pupils enrolled in public and DepEd accredited private schools, seeks to instill in the young minds the value of food and agricultural development.

This year, the contest served as venue for the young students to express in their artistic interpretations, the WFD '07 theme "The Right to Food".

Two students from Luzon, one from the Visayas and two others from Mindanao were declared as this year's National Winners. They will be awarded at the Pritil Public Market by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap and will each receive ten thousand pesos in cash prize, a trophy, and a plaque for their respective schools.

Poster Making Contest National Winners:

Sheena Faith F. Carreon
Sarrat North Central School
Ilocos Norte

Brian Jones C. Brazil
Magallanes Elementary School
A. Pichon Sr. St., Davao City

Ronnel S. Lacas
Don Miguel Elementary School
San Nicolas, Hagonoy, Bulacan

Soon Yi Wednesday B. Jurado
South City Central School
6th-21st Sts., Nazareth,
Cagayan de Oro City

Maphete Dianne M. Lustre
West Visayas State University
Integrated Laboratory School
Luna St., Lapaz, Iloilo City

PROGRAMME

October 15, 2007, Pritil Public Market, Tondo, Manila

PART I - 6:00 A.M.

Cooking Contest - National Nutrition Council

PART II - 8:00 A.M.

Arrival of the food caravan
from Regions II, III, IV-A & B, and Mindanao

PART III - 10:00 A.M.

Walk through FOOD CARAVAN & Inspection of Pritil Public Market - Sec. Arthur C. Yap & Mayor Alfredo S. Lim

Ribbon Cutting of the Launching of the Pritil Public Market as Bagsakan Center

Awarding of Certificates to Operate
a) BFT Parola and Happy Land
b) Tindahan Natin

Turn-over of vegetable seeds & garden tools for the Gulayan ng Masa Project

WORLD FOOD DAY PROGRAM PROPER

Welcome Remarks	Mayor Alfredo S. Lim
Awarding of the Winners of the World Food Day Poster Making Contest	Sec. Arthur C. Yap, Sec. Jesli A. Lapuz and Mr. Kazuyuki Tsurumi
Recognition of Awardees:	
B) Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Achievers	Sec. Arthur C. Yap and
C) BFT & Barangay Capt. Operators and Bagsakan Market Administrator	Mr. Kazuyuki Tsurumi
D) BFT & Bagsakan Producers and Suppliers	
Message of Dr. Jacques Diouf	Mr. Kazuyuki Tsurumi Dir-General, FAO-UN
Message	Sec. Arthur C. Yap
Closing Remarks	Asec. Salvador S. Salacup
Recessional	

World Rural Women's Day

The country joins the world in recognizing the role of women through the celebration of World Women's Day with the theme: "The right to food: rural women produce and provide".

All over the world, women have been increasingly participating in business and politics. And the Philippines is no stranger to this phenomenon of increasing women involvement. Consistent with the Philippines' commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goal of Gender Empowerment, there has been a steady improvement with regard to gender equality in the country through the years. Last year, female participation rate in our colleges and universities was higher than that of males while national female literacy rate is higher than similar male literacy rates (UN MDG, 2007).

Filipino women are also increasingly participating in politics. In the last elections, more women were elected to Congress. At the same time, more women are entering the nation's labor force, veering away from the traditional role of housewifery (UN MDG Midterm Report, 2007).

These successes however are dimmed by a continuing number of difficulties. More women in the workforce may imply women empowerment but it also reflects the country's poverty situation, where a single breadwinner's wage is increasingly insufficient to meet a family's basic demands. Today, more women are forced to become overseas Filipino workers, mostly as unskilled laborers or domestic workers (NSCB, 2006) or work in the informal sector, where there are limited benefits and protection (UN MDG Midterm Report, 2007).

In general, rural poverty has a woman's face (NSCB, 2003 poverty estimates), emphasizing the importance of economic empowerment in poverty alleviation. The DA is cognizant of this fact and has given gender development increased focus. In fact, a number of DA projects by regional field units target women. These include various trainings for non-farm income-generating activities and credit financing seminars (DA-RFU, 2007).

Programang Gulayan Para sa Masa

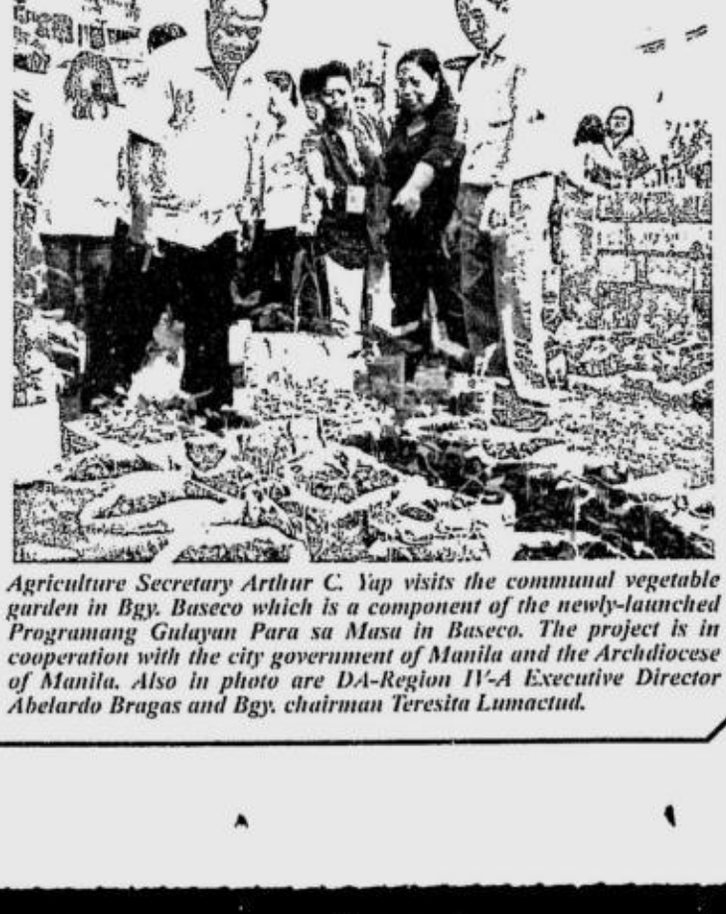
Gulayan Para sa Masa Program is a food production intervention program of the government designed to reduce hunger and improve nutrition in targeted provinces and urban areas.

The DA in cooperation with the Local Government Units and other government agencies collaborates to disseminate and promote integrated backyard gardening in barangays vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition, empower the people through capability building activities and promote inputs such as seed, plant materials, livestock and fisheries including farm tools in the identified barangays.

It started in 2006 in some 170 barangays in the provinces of Tawi-tawi, Sulu, Masbate, Kalinga Apayao and Zamboanga del Norte covering a total of 17,000 families.

To date, there are 766,863 households in the country which tapped the Programang Gulayan Para sa Masa and are located in the 30 priority provinces that were assessed by the DA's Hunger Mitigation Task Force. It hopes to accomplish the target of 851,000 households in October.

The program encourages households to set up their backyard gardens and whatever surplus they produce, they can sell it through the other DA's project, Barangay Food Terminals (BFTs). Others can have it through communal approach and school garden that the Bureau of Plant Industry has already integrated.



Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap visits the communal vegetable garden in Bgy. Baseco which is a component of the newly-launched Programang Gulayan Para sa Masa in Baseco. The project is in cooperation with the city government of Manila and the Archdiocese of Manila. Also in photo are DA-Region IV-A Executive Director Abelardo Bragas and Bgy. chairman Teresita Lumactud.

Bukidnon farmers start 60-day march to Manila to regain land

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—BLISTERS and sprains failed to stop Higaonon farmers from pushing on with their 60-day protest march from their hometown of Sumilao in Bukidnon to Manila to dramatize their 10-year demand to regain their land.

The march entered its fifth day on Saturday, with the farmers embarking on their next stop, Kinoguitan in Misamis Oriental, from an overnight stay in Jasaan town, also in the same province.

They plan to walk an average of 40 kilometers per day and cover 1,800 kilometers all the way to the Visayas and Metro Manila.

They expect to reach the metropolis in time for the observance of International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10.

Jennifer Ramos of the militant lawyers' group Balaod (Law) Mindanaw said the 50 protesters had to contend with the hot climate every day of their "walk for agrarian justice."

Ramos said she observed that the protesters had to slow down toward noon because of the heat and that their slippers were easily worn out.

SUMILAO farmers log their first 100 kilometers in Cagayan de Oro City for the 1,500-km walk to Metro Manila. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Optimistic

Despite these, Rene Penas, one of the march leaders, said he was optimistic that the group "will be able to fully possess and own our land."

The protesters are among the 137 identified farmer-beneficiaries of the disputed 144-hectare Quisumbing Estate in Bukidnon, which was placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and redistributed on Sept. 25, 1995, through a collective Certificate of Land Ownership Award (Cloa).

The same Cloa was subsequently registered before the Sumilao Register of Deeds on Oct. 13, 1995, the very basis for the farmers' claims of vested rights over the estate.

But in March 1996, then Executive Secretary Ruben Torres issued an order allowing the conversion of the estate from purely agricultural into agri-industrial. The order effectively provided the Quisumbings an escape route from the CARP.

Despite the opposition of officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Torres' order was upheld by the Supreme Court in August 1999, setting back the farmers' claim for land possession.

The Sumilao farmers said the actual conversion of the land had not taken place.

In 2002, the Quisumbings sold the idled estate to the Cojuangco-controlled San Miguel Corp. through its subsidiary, San Miguel Foods Inc. The company announced that it was going to establish a piggery farm in the estate, an activity which was not specified in Torres' order for land-use conversion.

Piggery plan

According to a primer of the Sumilao case prepared by Balaod Mindanaw, the piggery plan cropped up last year as the farmers were preparing to claim back the land.

The farmers pointed out that under DAR rules, the estate's owners were given five years to implement the new land-use plan, but in the case of the Quisumbing Estate, the period lapsed in 2004.

They said this gave them the opportunity to demand that the estate be subjected to CARP coverage again, but the government had ignored this.

Starting Wednesday last week, they began a long walk to land ownership.

Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma has openly urged his parishioners, the Catholic laity and priests to provide support to the farmers.

A national coalition of farmer organizations has also urged agrarian reform advocates and peasants to "reignite awareness of the situation of agrarian reform in the country and create a groundswell of support for the acceleration of distribution of lands under the [CARP]." *Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA [Tel. Nos. 551-9586, 551-9544 and 551-3457; Telefax 551-3456; and e-mail address: erd@peza.gov.ph].

(Sgd.) **LILIA B. DE LIMA**
Director General

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'Character city' advocates enforce plan to stop violence

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—CASES OF VIOLENCE involving the youth have increased in the city, prompting evangelists working in the government to implement a three-year plan aimed at promoting "good moral character" in high schools.

The plan aims to restore the summer capital's old identity as a "city of character," said Councilor Galo Weygan, a Christian pastor.

Police have documented cases of gang rivalry erupting in fist fights along downtown streets at midnight.

The violence escalated recently when a grenade was hurled at an establishment frequented by teenagers near a university. Nine students were hurt when the grenade exploded near a billiards hall.

The "character council," which counts the local evangelical community as members, urges the government to legislate ordinances that will control or regulate street "fraternization."

Its work plan seeks passage of a law banning "secret fraternities." It proposes to coordinate with city employee Mark Baliton, who presides over the United Fraternities Organization, to keep policemen abreast about their activities and to help the government identify underground fraternities.

Weygan authored a 2003 ordinance that created a council whose main task was to prepare Baguio for its conversion into a character city, and to ensure that "righteousness, efficiency, transparency and accountability" rule local governance.

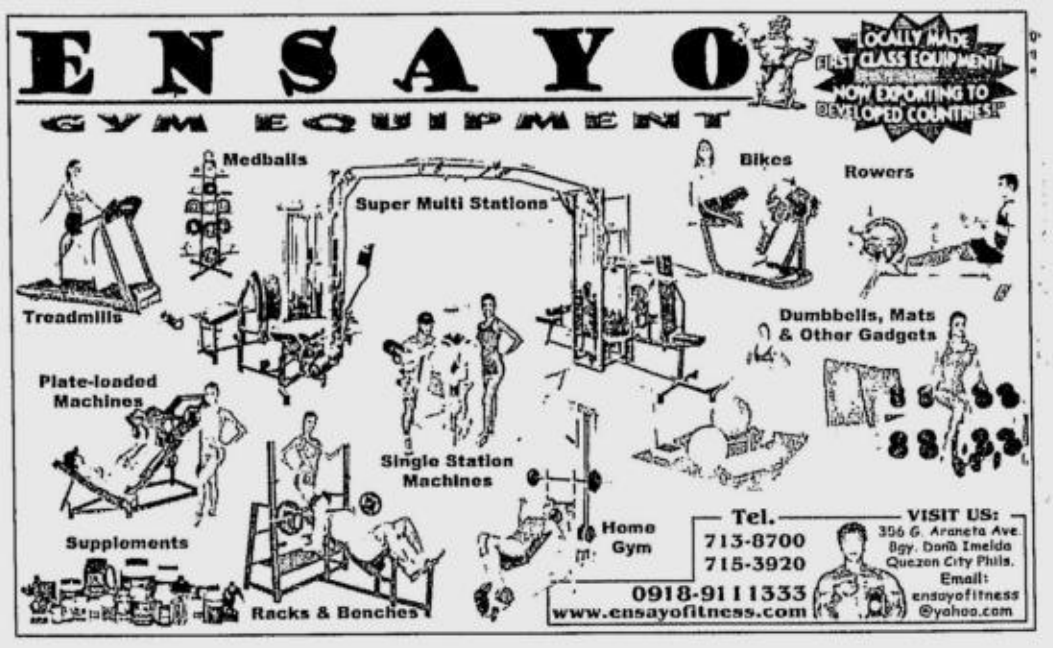
Each week, Weygan's chief duty is to announce during the weekly flag ceremony what "moral character" the city government needs to imbibe.

The advocates were criticized, however, when Weygan imposed a mandatory counseling session on character development for all businessmen renewing or applying for permits.

The work plan requires the government to enforce ordinances regulating vices because "the environment outside the schools" affects youth behavior.

It is concerned about the existence of karaoke bars, proliferation of commercial video game machines and Internet shops, "jueteng," and bars and billiards halls. It offers to organize the children of parents working overseas to "attend to neglected children and philandering spouses."

The plan wants the city to regulate student dormitories "to prevent or avoid prostitution." It stresses that schools must be encouraged "to go back to the basics of teaching good manners and right conduct, moral values and character and healthy lifestyles."



Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ALAMINOS
Province of Pangasinan

NOTICE

The City Government of Alaminos invites interested parties to submit their proposals relative to the implementation of the following projects:

1. **Solid Waste Processing Plant**
2. **Potable Water Supply for Bulk Selling to the Alaminos Water District for Distribution**
3. **Establishment of Modular Sewage and Sewerage Processing Plant**
4. **Supply of Various Heavy Equipment**

Proponents are hereby directed to indicate in their proposal 1) funding options; 2) mode of implementation; and 3) other options for consideration by the City.

Please submit your proposal to the City Planning and Development Office on or before November 30, 2007.

ENGR. EDUARDO A. GARCIA
Contact Nos. : 0927-878-0193
(075) 654-1099

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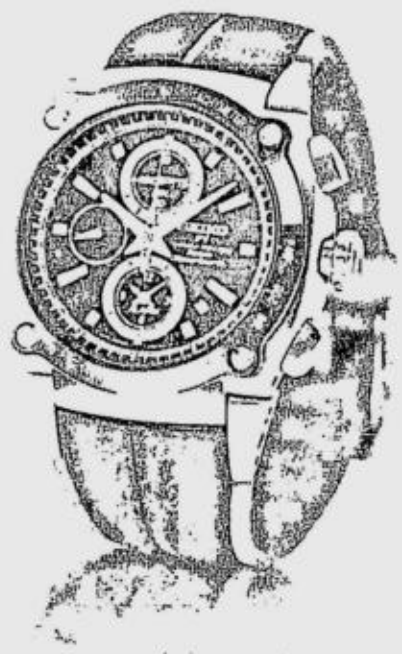

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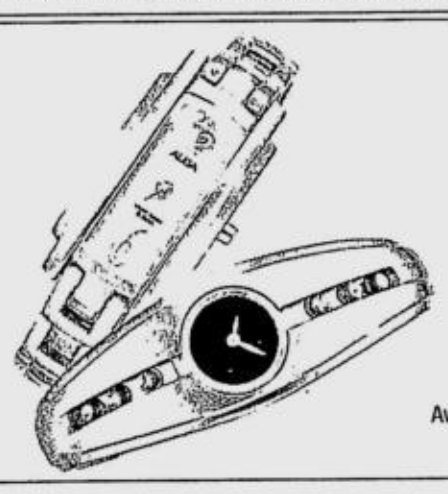

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Meet and greet your Go Negosyo advocates!
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Leviste asks CA to reconsider ruling

Cites lack of strong evidence to back murder charge vs him

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER BATANGAS GOV. JOSE Antonio Leviste has contested the Court of Appeals decision affirming the murder charge filed against him for the shooting of his longtime aide, Rafael de las Alas, last January.

In his motion for reconsideration, Leviste cited the resolution of Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Elmo Alameda to grant him bail last May.

He pointed out that Alameda, in his decision allowing him to post bail, had noted the scarcity of evidence to back the murder charge which was filed by Justice Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco after a reinvestigation of the case was conducted.

In finding Leviste liable for murder and upgrading the charge from homicide, Velasco had cited treachery, cruelty and premeditation in De las Alas' killing, which took place inside Leviste's office in Makati City.

Leviste was subsequently arrested and detained, but was allowed to post bail by Alameda who ruled that the prosecution had failed to produce sufficient evidence against the former governor.

"In issuing his order ... Respondent Judge had realized that indeed the prosecution has no iota of evidence to support the crime of Murder. Meanwhile, the petitioner has already suffered, not only in jail, but also from the reckless and unwarranted publicity orchestrated by Velasco," Leviste said in his motion for reconsideration.

The Court of Appeals, in an Aug. 30 decision, upheld Velasco's findings and the subsequent admission of the amended charge for murder against Leviste.

According to the former governor, the appellate court should correct the prosecution's mistake in the interest of justice.

"It has to concede with the realization of Respondent Judge, and however late it may be, it has to administer justice, if not vindication, to the petitioner that at least he should not have suffered the ordeal he had been through," Leviste said.

He added that Alameda should not have allowed a reinvestigation of the case because Velasco and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had shown impartiality by saying that the charge filed against him should have been murder, instead of homicide.

WORK IT, LADIES RODEL ROTONI
Senior citizens wait for their turn to be called on stage at a fashion show held recently at the San Juan gymnasium to mark Elderly Filipino Week.

Landfill dispute not over money, says MMDA

By DJ Yap

RATHER THAN MONEY MATTERS, TECHnical questions involving the treatment of the leachate from the 14-hectare Rodriguez landfill led to the dispute last week between the heads of Rizal province and Rodriguez town.

As garbage operations went back to normal, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday denied reports that Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III and Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo III had been squabbling over the income generated by the landfill.

"It was not about money at all. The root of the conflict was technical problems over who is responsible for the treatment of the leachate, or the toxic wastewater that drains from the landfill," Fernando said.

During his Sunday morning program on radio station dzBB, Fernando said he wanted to "disabuse the public of the notion" that monetary considerations caused the dispute.

He also thanked Ynares and Cuerpo for the peaceful resolution of the problem, which he said, was simply the result of the officials' desire to "protect their (respective) interests."

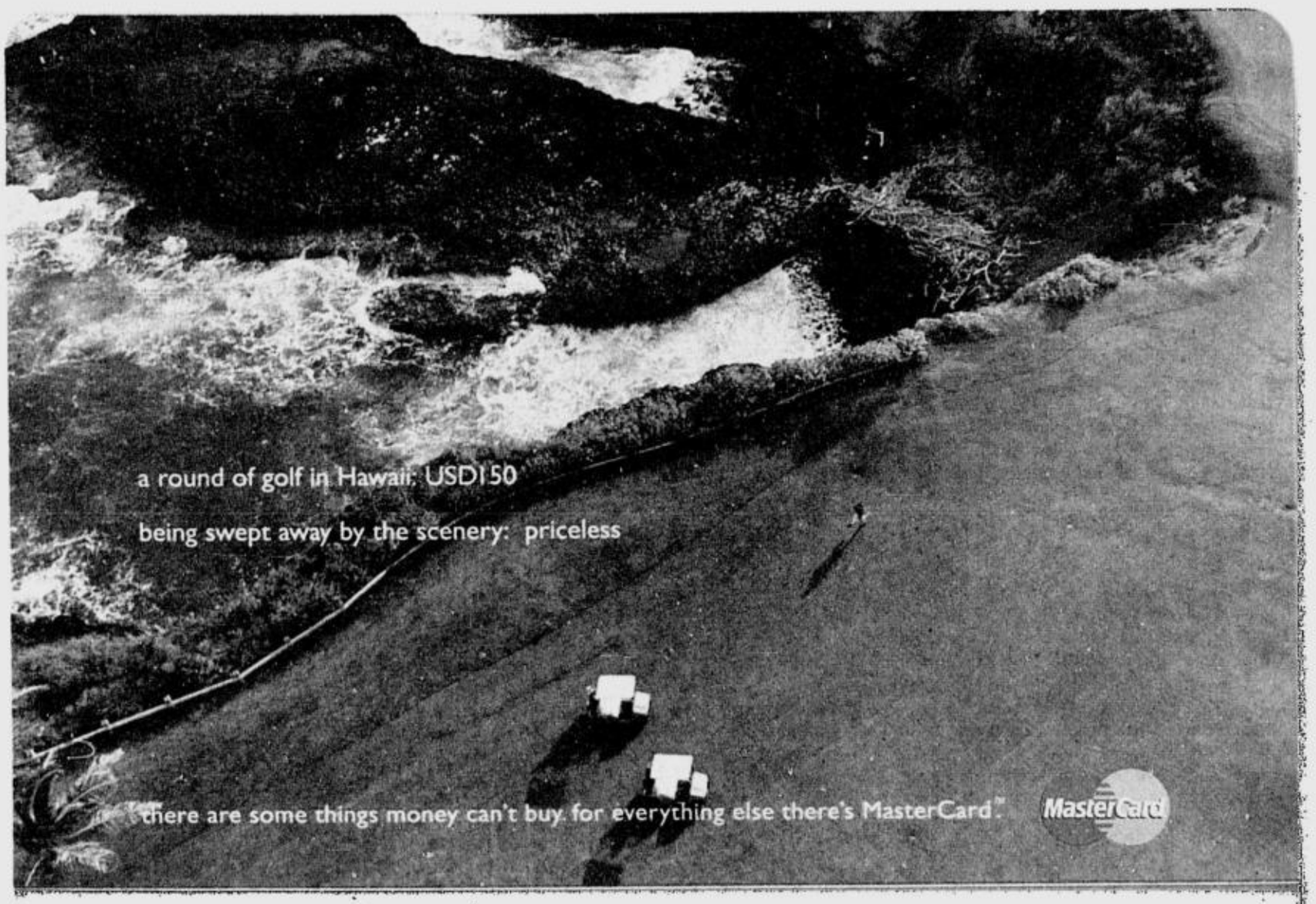
But Fernando did not elaborate on the agreement that was reached by the two local officials when they met with him Thursday night. He only said Ynares and Cuerpo agreed to settle their differences and to reopen the 19-hectare landfill which is beside the 14-hectare dump.

DID YOU KNOW

MANILA was under British rule for almost two years—from October 1762 to March 1764. A British fleet arrived in Manila Bay on Sept. 22, 1762 with orders from England's King George III to take possession of the Spanish-governed Philippine islands. Spain earned the ire of England when it sided with France, which England was fighting with.

The British troops occupied churches in Malate, Ermita and San Juan de Bagumbayan and attacked Intramuros. On Oct. 6, 1762 acting Governor General Archbishop Manuel Antonio Rojo surrendered Manila to the British. The British returned the city to Spain in 1764, in accordance with the peace treaty that ended the war between England and France.

Cyril Bonabente, Inquirer Research



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Makati to adopt 4 members of RP Everest Team

By DJ Yap

FOR SCALING THE HIGHEST PEAK IN THE world, four members of the Philippine Everest Team will be "adopted" by the country's financial capital.

The city government of Makati is set to make Leo Oracion, Carina Dayondon, Janet Belarmino and Noelle Wenceslao honorary residents, Mayor Jejomar Binay said yesterday.

Another member of the team, Erwin "Pastor" Emata, already lives in Makati.

"The conferment of honorary citizenship to the members of Team Everest is a small gesture of gratitude to real heroes who made great personal sacrifices to bring honor to the Philippines," Binay said.

He added that he has asked the Makati City Council to pass an ordinance adopting the four and making them eligible for all the benefits enjoyed by city residents.

The mayor met with the members of Team Everest at a student forum at the University of Makati Thursday, where they gave Binay autographed first edition stamps commemorating Oracion and Emata's ascent of Everest on May 17 and 18, 2006.

The two were the first Filipinos to reach the top of Everest, the world's highest peak.

The women climbers, on the other hand, gave Binay signed photos of their own historic climb last May 18.

Belarmino, Dayondon and Wenceslao also made history by becoming the first women climbers from Southeast Asia to traverse the peak of Everest.

As adopted citizens of Makati, the four will receive the much-touted Makati "yellow cards" which entitle them to subsidized health services.

They may also use the city's sports facilities for their training, including the Makati Aqua Sports Arena in Barangay West Rembo, and the soon to open UMAK Oval.

Binay said the four would also be entitled to the benefits received by Makati's senior citizens once they retire. The city's elderly can watch a movie for free in any of the city's cinemas any day of the week. They also receive cakes on their birthdays and a yearly allowance of P2,000.

HEALTH HAZARD
Edmundo Rimando, 64, G.Tuazon-Calabash A, Sampaloc, Manila, writes: "A vacant lot near our house has been used as dump for sometime now. Despite numerous complaints from residents, no action has been taken about this problem. We are afraid of the dangers it could cause to our health, especially now that growing incidents of dengue have been reported in Metro Manila. Please help us." CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

METRO Citizen's Call 0918-8985566

Street kids at risk

I WOULD like to call the attention of the government agency concerned regarding the presence of street children at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Araneta Avenue near the boundary of Manila and Quezon City who play hide and seek with policemen or beg from motorists. Their lives are at risk, either from passing vehicles, outdoor pollution and exposure to either the heat or strong rains.

LILY S.,46, Quezon City

Repair needed for Cainta subdivision road network

CALLING the attention of Cainta Mayor Mon Ilagan. For three years now, I have observed the deterioration of the road network in Brookside Hillside Subdivision. I don't know if the homeowners' association knows anything about it. But I think the Department of the Interior and Loal Government, in the name of public service, should do something about this, like covering with asphalt the roads leading to Birmingham Place Subdivision via Burbank Street, Birmingham Street and other main streets. *Salamat po* (Thank you)!

RIC JAY, 35, Brookside Hillside Subdivision,Cainta, Rizal

Curfew hours not followed

HINDI nasusunod ang curfew dito sa Sta. Ana. Marami pa rin akong nakikitang kabataan na nasa labas ng kalye kahit may curfew na (Curfew hours are not followed in Sta. Ana, Manila. I see a lot of minors out on the streets even after curfew).

ANGELO ABUNAN, 33, Manila

Lanes for tricycles only

THERE should be lanes devoted strictly to tricycles alone at Batasan Road in Quezon City so these vehicles do not hinder the flow of traffic in the area.

TED BELORMINO, 52, Northview, Quezon City

Tullahan Bridge open only to cars, jeeps

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE TULLAHAN BRIDGE IN VALENzuela City would finally be reopened to motorists today after undergoing rehabilitation for over six months.

However, Ed Santos, Department of Public Works and Highways National Capital Region project engineer, clarified that only two of the bridge's four lanes would be open.

In addition, only light vehicles would be allowed to use the structure.

"We had problems with the incessant rains, which led to the delay in the completion of the bridge's approaches," Santos said in a phone interview yesterday.

Aside from cars, only jeepneys and vans would be allowed on the bridge. Big trucks would be banned from passing through the structure until it is completely finished, he stressed.

"The whole project could be completed within a week, depending on the weather," Santos said.

He added, "We are asking the public for a little more patience and understanding because we cannot sacrifice the structure's quality over the original project timetable."

The reconstruction of the 73-year-old bridge was completed last Sept. 15 but it took the DPWH another month to build the approaches at both ends of the infrastructure. The P63 million project was originally set to open in June.

Cops to brief media on crime scene 'protocol'

AS THE "NO. 1 CONTAMINANTS" of crime scenes, media men are being invited to a seminar this Thursday on the importance of preserving the evidence at the scene of a crime.

Organized by the Manila Police District Homicide Division-Criminal Investigation Detection Unit, the one-day seminar at the MPD headquarters for both media and police investigators will take up crime scene protection, the duties of responding officers and how they should deal with media.

"The media always contaminates the crime scene. This seminar is part of our massive information campaign on crime scene investigation, because whatever evidence you are introducing to the court of law, if it is already contaminated or altered, it will not have intrinsic value," Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, MPD homicide chief, told the INQUIRER.

He pointed out, however, that at times, policemen also fail to cordon off the crime scene. ***Allison W. Lopez***

Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector (InfRES) Project InfRES PROJECT OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Provision of Training Services for Design and Delivery of Training Package 5 – Design and Conduct of Training on O&M

The Government of the Philippines' Department of Agriculture (DA) with funding assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB Loan - 1772-PHI) is currently undertaking the Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector (InfRES) Project. The Project is designed to improve rural productivity and reduce poverty in target rural areas through the provision of demand-driven rural infrastructure and activities that strengthen local capacities for devolved project implementation and management. The Project under Component 2 supports a program of capacity building that includes strengthening of LGUs, NGOs, Community Organizations and the DA in managing and implementing community-driven rural infrastructure projects.

This invitation is intended to invite qualified training providers to apply for eligibility and bid for the design and delivery of **Training Package 5 – Training on O&M to 81 LGUs** in 9 regions in Southern Philippines. This course will be provided to LGUs with about to be completed or on-going subproject implementation aimed to build their capabilities in maintaining their subprojects.

The InfRES Project Office invites qualified training providers to submit proposals together with qualification documents. The training providers/institutions will be selected in accordance with existing GOP and ADB Procurement Guidelines on the Use of Consultants.

Basic Qualification Requirements:

- Must have at least 3 years experience and track record in designing, conducting and managing training programs/courses particularly for LGUs
- Must have a team of qualified experts/resource persons whose field of expertise and experience are within the proposed training areas with relevant qualification and experience as trainers or resource persons in their specific field of expertise;
- Must be an accredited training institution of Civil Service Commission, LGA and/or other accrediting institutions

Proposals and qualification documents must be submitted on or before **5:00 PM, November 29, 2007** to: **MR. MICHAEL J. ALLMAN, Team Leader and Project Management Specialist, InfRES Project (Attn: Richelda Salamero, Training Officer), InfRES Project Office, 2nd Floor JAFER Building, 118 West Ave., Quezon City.**

The Request for Proposal (RFP) and Qualification requirements shall be issued starting October 29, 2007 by the Project Office. For further information, interested parties may inquire during office hours at the following telephone numbers: 928-76-05/928-76-15. You can also visit our website at www@infres.com.ph

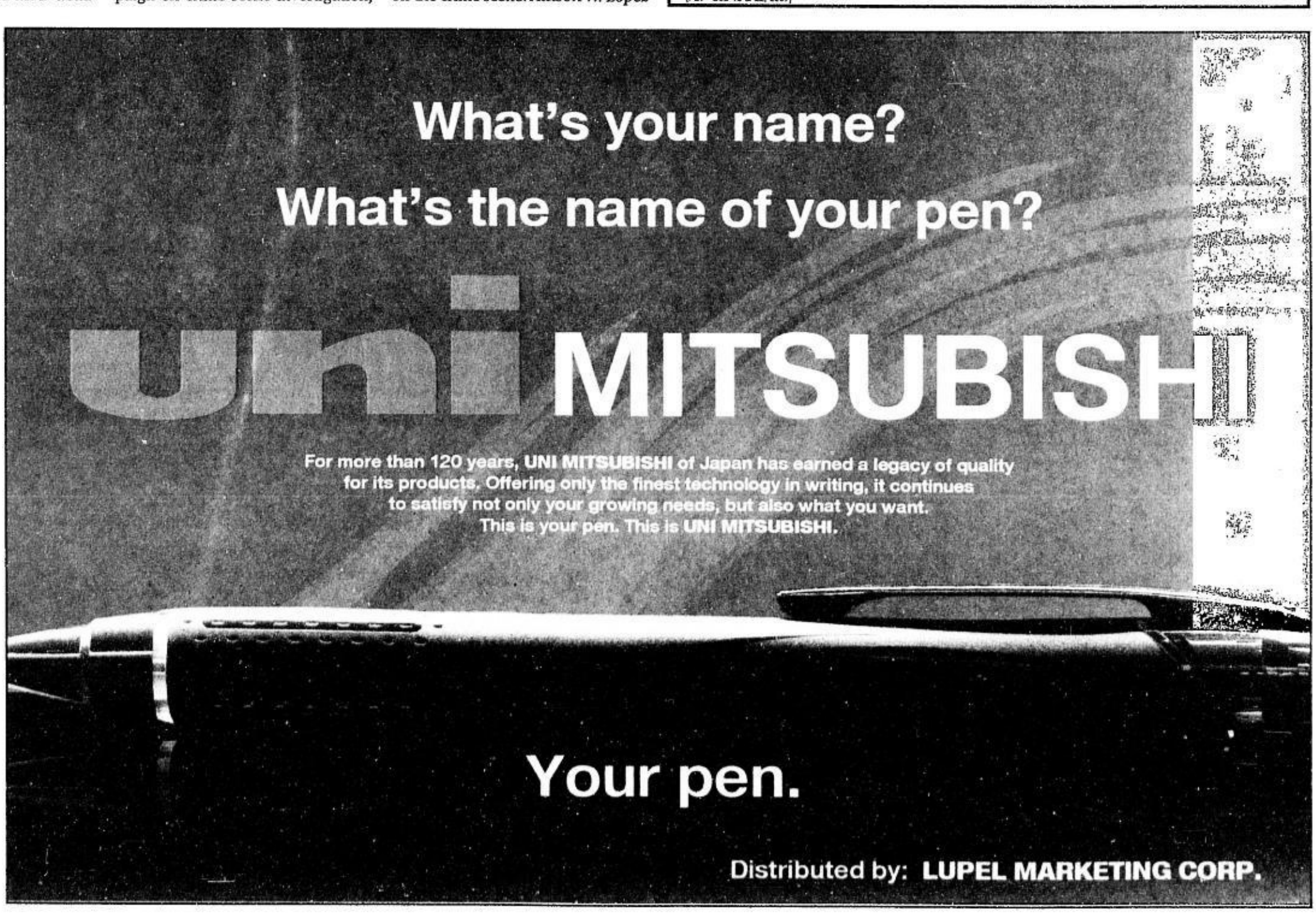
(PDI - Oct. 15 & 22, 2007)

METRO BRIEFS

Man killed after wedding

A MAN was killed in Quezon City a few hours after his wedding last Saturday. Oscar de la Cruz, 27, a resident of Talanay, Barangay Batasan Hills, was stabbed dead by Rodel Refe, 21, during a beauty pageant. Earlier in the day, De la Cruz was celebrating his wedding by drinking with his friends inside his house. The police said the victim, who was then quite drunk, later went out of his house to watch the pageant but became unruly and started fighting with another man. Refe tried to calm down the victim but the latter punched him in the face. This angered the suspect who took out a knife and stabbed the victim once in the body. Refe escaped while people rushed De la Cruz to the Malvar General Hospital. The victim, however, died a few minutes later while the police have yet to find the suspect.

Kenneth M. del Rosario



Under-fire Australia PM Howard calls election

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIAN PRIME Minister John Howard on Sunday called a general election for Nov. 24 in which the staunch US ally in Iraq faces the fight of his life as polls show him headed for a landslide defeat.

Pleading with voters for support whether they "love me or loathe me" after 11 years in office, Howard insisted his experience set him ahead of opposition leader Kevin Rudd.

At a press conference which ended weeks of fevered media speculation and nearly a year of bitter but unofficial campaigning, Howard made a humble but determined bid for a fifth term in office.

But even after waiting until the last minute to call the poll, and giving himself a full six week campaign time, he is facing what is expected to be the country's most bruising election clash in a decade.

The conservative 68-year-old leader of the Liberal Party is trailing badly in opinion polls in a battle against the toughest opponent to emerge since he won power, Labor Party leader and former diplomat Rudd.

Rudd has pledged to pull Australian troops out of Iraq, but it is domestic issues such as the booming economy and the government's radical industrial relations reforms that are expected to be key election battlegrounds.

Howard, who is fighting a rising tide of voter sentiment that his government has been in power too long, argued that

HOWARD AP

Australia's best years could lie ahead with him at the helm.

"In order for that to happen, this country does not need new leadership, it does not need old leadership, it needs the right leadership," he said.

Howard said the choice for Australians was whether to choose a party with a proven track record, or "an inexperienced group of men and women, 70 percent of whom are former trade union officials."

With voters above all concerned over house prices and rising interest rates putting pressure on mortgages, Howard stressed his ability to manage the current economic boom and said he believed record unemployment could go even lower.

"The right leadership is the leadership that tells the Australian people where it stands on issues and what it believes in," he said. *AFP*

WorldBriefs

9 killed in Afghan suicide attack

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—A suicide bomber on a motorbike detonated explosives in a crowded marketplace near Afghan police, killing nine people and wounding at least 29, officials said. The blast Saturday killed two police officers and seven civilians in the city of Spin Boldak in the southern province of Kandahar near the border with Pakistan, a statement from Nato's International Security Assistance force said. Violence has killed more than 5,200 people this year, according to an Associated Press count based on official figures, the deadliest year since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. *AP*

British PM Brown suffers poll plunge

LONDON—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown suffered further blows Sunday as a new poll put the opposition seven points ahead as disgruntled ex-ministers reportedly prepared to attack. The poll in The Sunday Telegraph newspaper marked an astonishing turnaround as Brown's governing Labour Party was 11 percentage points clear of the Conservatives in one poll just weeks ago. But it now seems his honeymoon period after taking over from Tony Blair in June is well and truly over. The Conservatives, led by David Cameron, were on 43 percent—a 15-year high—Labour on 36 percent and the Liberal Democrats on 14 percent in the survey by pollsters ICM. *AFP*

Castro, Chavez meet for 4 hours

HAVANA—Cuban leader Fidel Castro and his Venezuelan counterpart, Hugo Chavez, met for four hours Saturday to discuss Latin America, world problems and bilateral relations, Cuban state television reported. *AFP*

Clinton has 21-pt lead over Obama

WASHINGTON—Hillary Clinton has a 21-point lead over fellow Democrat Barack Obama in New Hampshire, one of the first states to vote in the nominating process for the 2008 US presidential election, a poll showed on Sunday.

In a poll by Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, 41 percent of likely Democratic voters support Clinton followed by 20 percent for Obama, a first-term senator from Illinois.

Former Sen. John Edwards was third with 11 percent.

Among likely Republican voters, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney had a slight lead with 26 percent support, followed by 20 percent for former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and 17 percent for Arizona Sen. John McCain. *Reuters*

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

The WORLD

Burma restores Internet, but continues arrest of foes

RANGOON—THE RULING GENERALS OF BURMA (Myanmar) have restored public Internet access, more than two weeks after cutting Web connections to stem the flow of images of mass protests and a ruthless crackdown that outraged the world.

The junta also reduced a curfew to just four hours, but arrests of opponents and participants in the protests—the biggest challenge to 45 years of military rule in Burma since 1988—continued despite international pressure for talks with the opposition.

"The Internet connection was restored on Saturday afternoon, but we still haven't decided whether or not to reopen our Internet cafe yet," a Rangoon (Yangon) Internet cafe owner said.

There had been intermittent access to the Internet over the past week, mostly during a curfew first imposed as the junta sent the Army in to end protests led by thousands of Buddhist monks.

The government admits 10 people were killed, although Western governments and opposition groups in exile say the real toll was much higher, and thousands of people, including hundreds of monks, were arrested and held in brutal conditions.

Many have been freed, but more are being arrested despite a visit by United Nations special envoy Ibrahim Gambari and a statement condemning the crackdown by the UN Security Council including China, the closest the junta has to an ally.

On Saturday, three prominent activists in the student-led uprising the Army put down with an estimated loss of 3,000 lives in 1988 were detained in one of the many raids still being conducted by police. They face long jail terms.

Htay Kywe has already spent 15 years in jail, Mie Mie, a woman activist, seven years and Aung Thu, the third arrested, five years. Aung Gyi, another activist, was arrested separately.

Ko Min Aung, a member of detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, was arrested in Taunggok when he got home from an NLD meeting on Saturday.

"The police took him, grabbing his arms as soon as he got home. They did not even allow him to take a change of clothes," his wife said on Sunday.

Some who took part in the latest mass protests—both monks and laymen—may have been jailed already after closed trials.

"So far as we heard, jail sentences have already been passed on some monks, men and students who took part in the protests," a source close to the families of arrested activists said.

The junta has made some concessions to international pressure, including giving Gambari a rare audience with Senior Gen. Than Shwe and two meetings with Nobel laureate Suu Kyi. *Reuters*

BUSSED in, they walk home after. Participants of a mass progovernment rally leave Thuwunna Sports Ground in Rangoon (Yangon) on Oct. 13. AFP

Atheism apostle speaks his mind

By Peter Graff

LONDON—RICHARD DAWKINS, THE prickly Oxford biologist whose bestselling atheist manifesto "The God Delusion" has become a global publishing phenomenon, is a hero to his admirers and an object of outrage for his opponents around the world. An expert in Darwinian evolution, Dawkins doesn't just want to explain why he doesn't believe in God. He wants to pick fights and change minds.

"If this book works as I intend, religious readers who open it will be atheists by the time they put it down," he writes in his preface.

The existence of God, he argues, is a legitimate question for scientists, and the evidence doesn't add up.

In his most strongly worded chapter, he inveighs against the custom of automatically assuming that children share the religions of their parents before they are old enough to think for themselves. He calls it "child abuse."

Dawkins has no time for critics—even some who say they share his beliefs—who say the book is too shrill.

In one passage frequently cited by his detractors, he calls the Old Testament God "arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction ... a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sado-masochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."

In his preface he writes that no one would be surprised by such a tone in a political essay or a restaurant review.

"If it sounds intemperate, it is only because of the weird convention, almost universally accepted ... that religious faith is uniquely privileged: above and beyond criticism."

He said: "It is perfectly true that an awful lot of people have described me as strident and ranting and so forth. I wonder if they have read the book? I actually think the tone is rather humorous."

Already a bestseller in the United States and Britain, the book is now coming out in some 30 foreign editions, shooting onto bestseller lists in Italy, Germany, Brazil and elsewhere.

Its extraordinary success has fueled a publishing bonanza, both of atheist arguments—like "God Is Not Great" by Christopher Hitchens—and rebuttals by believers—like "The Dawkins Delusion" by Alister McGrath, a Christian biochemist.

Dawkins says the appetite for his arguments has been stoked both by the rise of Conservative Christian politics in the United States and the emergence of violent Islamic extremism.

Christian and Muslim fundamentalism are two sides of the same coin, he says, though "the Islamic ones are so much worse.

They actually resort to violence so much more easily."

Fresh from a tour of the United States, he said he detects a cultural change there. He was surprised by the size of the sympathetic crowds he attracted, especially in the so-called Bible belt, the southern heartland of Conservative Christianity.

"I do get the impression that there is something shifting in America. Under Bush it looked like America might soon be a theocracy and I think people have woken up to the danger of that and I think they are grateful for these books that speak what they have been thinking about," he says.

"The people who come to see me are there because they agree. *Reuters*

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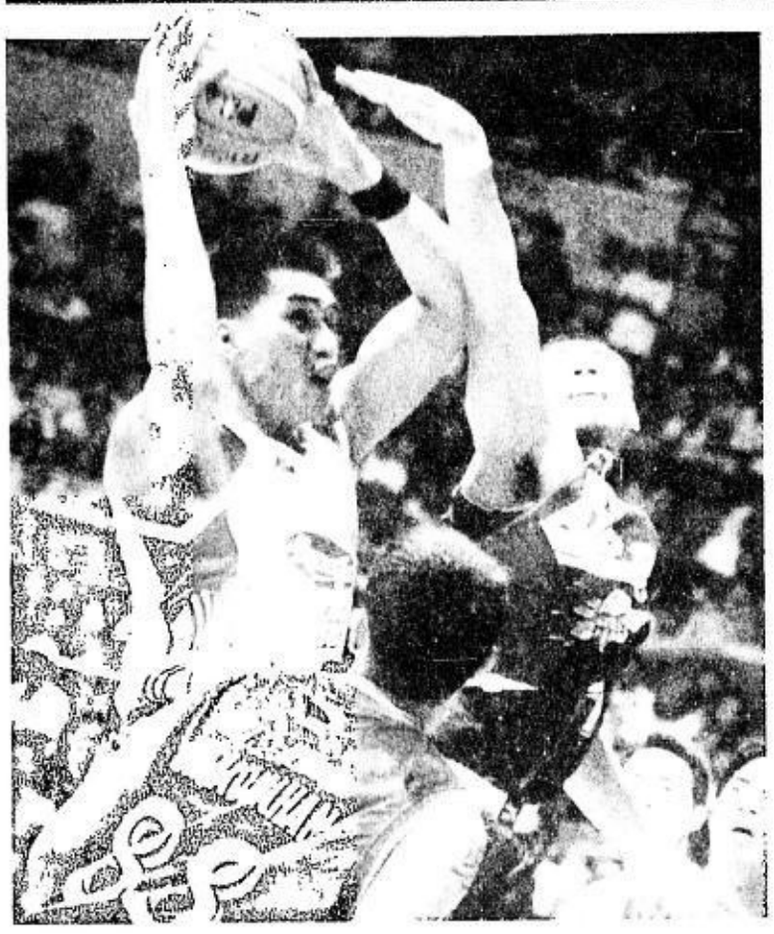

Magnolia in sizzling start, scuttles Air21

By June Navarro

LOADED WITH TALENT ON PAPER, MAGnolia translated that fearsome reputation into a more concrete form last night.

Danny Seigle and Dondon Hontiveros presided over the Beverage Masters' high-octane offense that dazzled the Air21 Express, 121-112, at the start of the 2007-2008 Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Firing a game-high 28 points, Seigle conspired with Hontiveros in a third-quarter onslaught that transformed a double-digit deficit to an imposing lead the Express couldn't overturn.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Purefoods
7:20 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska

Hontiveros pumped in 12 of his 15 points in that span, including the game-tying free throws at 67 and the go-ahead three-point play after ramming against rookie Doug Kramer.

The rampaging Express train, which built a 65-55 lead, finally got derailed as Hontiveros and Seigle took over.

"They were shooting the lights out and hurting us in transition," said Magnolia coach Siot Tanquingcen. "As one of the most athletic teams in the league, Air21 is really hard to contain with its flexible lineup."

Nino Canaleta sizzled with a career-high 32 points for the Express while Arwind Santos added 21 in the highest scoring season-opener since Presto beat Swift, 120-118, during the 1992 season.

League rules have been altered to favor the offensive team, making the game faster and exciting.

"We have to deal with it. Everybody plays under the same rules so I see no problem with it," said Tanquingcen.

What poses to be a big problem, however, was how to balance the minutes of Siot's talent-laden roster on the floor.

Aside from Seigle and Hontiveros, Enrico Villanueva, Larry Fonacier, Lordy Tugade and Danny Ildefonso also finished in double figures.

MAGNOLIA'S 6-foot-9 rookie Samigue Eman is fouled on the drive by Air21's Homer Se (right) in last night's PBA opener. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PBA opening notes

LAST NIGHT'S TECHNO-INSPIRED OPENING OF THE PBA's 33rd season drew a full-house crowd, underscoring the league's renewed strength at the box-office... You could feel the cold palms of league officer-in-charge Renauld "Sonny" Barrios as he addressed the crowd and opened the season with a brief speech. He was the leading candidate for the commissionership four years ago until lawyer-sportscaster Noli Eala beat him to the job... "Marimar" drew oohs and aahs from fans when she entered the court as muse of Talk 'N Text. They did not expect the lovely Marianne Rivera to play ball with the Phone Pals... Even Pokwang was there, unexpectedly as well, as "muse" of the Coca-Cola Tigers... Like Marimar, Karylle radiated uncommon charm and glamour as she sang the national anthem... World boxing champion Gerry Peñalosa, standing in, they say, for Manny Pacquiao, drew prideful cheers as he was introduced to the gallery. Six-foot-2 Paeng Nepomuceno, trim and still highly competitive, was never out of place on the court. A teenaged fan thought the four-time world bowling champ was a PBA alumnus.

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3rd	Mikko Hirvonen	(FORD)	69
4th	Daniel Sordo	(CITROEN)	31
5th	Petter Solberg	(SUBARU)	31
6th	Henning Solberg	(STOBART)	28
7th	Chris Atkinson	(SUBARU)	25
8th	Jari-Matti Latvala	(STOBART)	17

MANUFACTURER'S STANDINGS

1st	FORD	159
2nd	CITROEN	141
3rd	SUBARU	60
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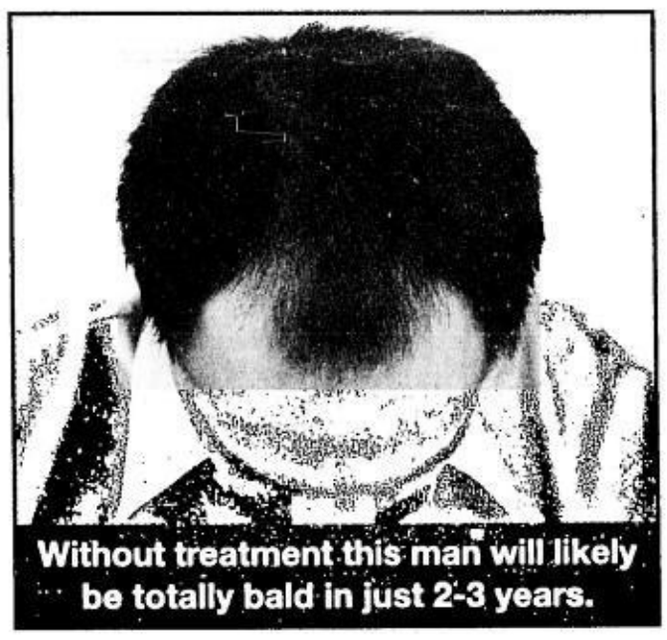
As most men prior to experiencing any hairloss have a total scalp cover of 100,000 to 150,000 hairs or more, a mere four disappearing every hour don't get noticed - until it's too late. Based on these figures it's easy to see how it takes only 3-5 years for a 30-year old man to be bald by the time he's 34 - if he does nothing about it.

Why is it that so many men let themselves go bald - when there's enough time at the beginning of the hairloss process to get expert advice and the right trichological treatments? It seems there are a number of reasons, the main one being unawareness of what is available at professional hair-and-scalp care centres. The best known is Svenson, which has been in the business of controlling hairloss for over twenty-five years across Asia and around the world. Svenson is where people go when they don't want to go bald.

If it really disturbs you that you're losing one hair every fifteen minutes, it makes a lot of sense to call Svenson for an appointment. It costs nothing to have a qualified trichologist analyze your hair and scalp. You'll learn the cause of your hairloss and what the right treatments can do. And you'll discover how your hair and scalp can be optimized for maximum growth potential.

Don't wait another 15 minutes and one more hair, call Svenson now for a no-cost consultation today. Telephone 892-4247/ 234-0851 (Cebu).



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So nails GM norm despite loss Derby Race joy for My Happiness

The standings:
7.5 points—GM Wang Hao (China), GM Ivan Popov (Russia), IM Grigoryan Avetik (Armenia); 7.0—GM Ahmed Adly (Egypt), GM Georg Meier (Germany), GM Dmitry Andreikin (Russia), IM Abhijeet Gupta (India); 6.5—GM Arman Pashikian (Armenia), GM Daniel Stellwagen (Netherlands), GM Victor Laznicka (Czech Republic), IM Marcus Ragger (Austria), IM Davit Jojua (Georgia),Vicheslav Kulakov (Russia); 6.0—**IM Wesley So (Philippines)**,GM Maxim Rodshtein (Israel), GM Parimarjan Negi (India), GM David Howell (England), GM Gawain Jones (England), IM Daan Brandenburg (Netherlands), IM Evgeny Romanov (Russia), IM Gogineni Rohit (India), IM Gopal Narayanan (India), IM Fidel Corrales (Cuba), IM Tamas Banusz (Hungrary), IM Hrant Melkumyan (US)

A DAY AFTER SECURING THE SECond of three grandmaster norms he needs to become a full-pledged GM, Wesley So lost his match against Indian International Master Abhijeet Gupta in the 10th round Saturday of the World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the T. Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

The 14-year-old from Bacoor, Cavite, resigned after 38 moves of a Sicilian Defense, Ritzer Rauzer Attack, and fell out of contention with just three rounds left in the tournament.

The loss was the third for So, who also has five victories and two draws.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—FAR FOURTH choice My Happiness kicked mightily in the final two quarters last night to win the centerpiece Derby Race of the Klub Don Juan Festival at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Class B rider John B. Cordero rode like a master atop the daughter of Orpen out of Glee Club, wheeling My Happiness out in front for good when the bunch rounded the far turn.

The New Zealand-bred My Happiness, which sold just P125,474 out of the total handle of P901,682, won by four lengths over Traditional and Ferdinand Raquel to secure the first prize of P900,000 for owner Honorato Neri.

Speedball Copper Dew, the Val Dilema-steered second choice behind the fancied Irene's Fantasy, was third another length back for P187,500, while Defiant was fourth under Jeffryl Zarate for P75,000.

My Happiness won for the first time in six races, clocking 2:06.8.

The super-impressive Indelible Ink, meanwhile, stretched her winning run to six earlier after dominating the Fillies' Stakes in a virtual gallop also under Zarate.

Sent off as the overwhelming first choice with sales of P655,109 out of the total daily double handle of P723,329.

UST Tigresses post big V-League start

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena, San Juan*)
3 p.m.—Lyceum vs Adamson
5 p.m.—Letran vs La Salle

By Romina S. Austria

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS began its back-to-back title bid like a house on fire, scorching La Salle, 25-16, 25-22, 25-11, yesterday at the start of the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan City.

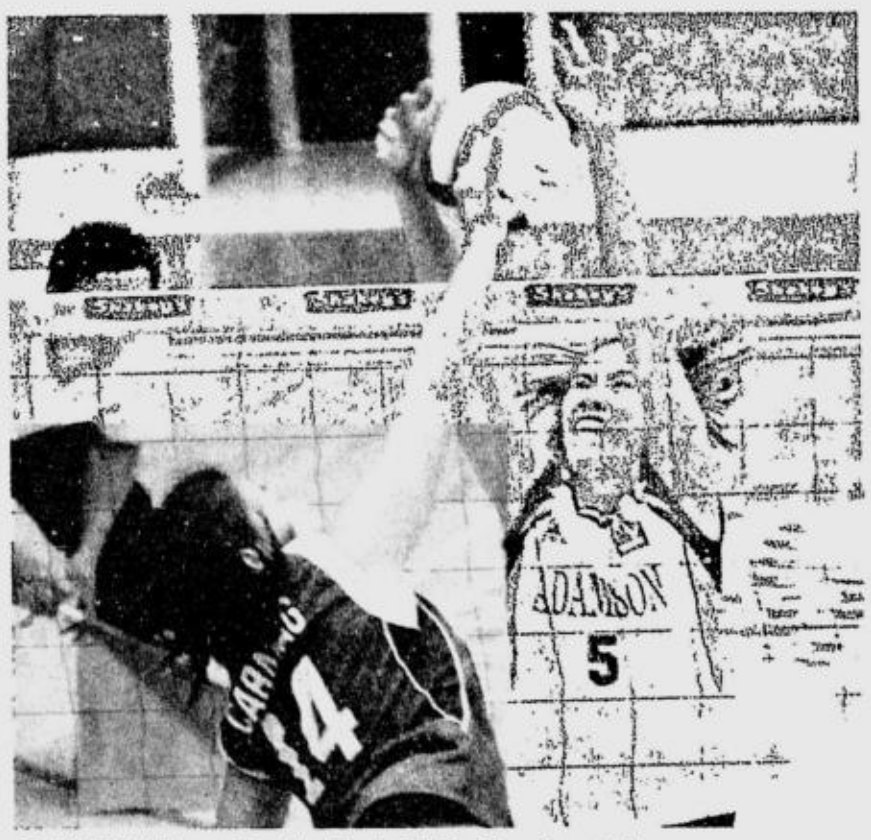
Adamson University earlier blanked Far Eastern University, 25-23, 25-21, 27-25.

Showing the experience and maturity that gave them a second title last July, the Tigresses were only threatened in the closing minutes of the second set when the Lady Archers moved within 21-20.

In the third set, the 2004 champions jumped to an 8-2 advantage and never looked back, completing the job in just one hour and 10 minutes.

Venus Bernal, the first conference finals Most Valuable Player, led UST's attack with 16 points while Mary Jean Balse contributed 13.

Only Stephanie Mercado, daughter of former Asian sprint queen Lydia de Vega, came up with a double-digit production for the Lady Archers with 18 points.



ADAMSON'S Janet Serafica blocks FEU's Mary Rose Cabanag. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

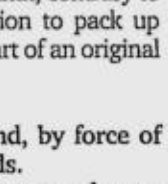
La Salle needs to beat Letran in their 5 p.m. match tomorrow to avoid an early stint at the cellar, an unlikely place for the three-time league winner and defending champion.

Rissa Jane Laguilles produced 15 points for the Lady Falcons, sixth placers last season, who will gun for the solo lead against eight-time WNCAA champion Lyceum tomorrow at 3 p.m.

"It was an impressive debut for us because we didn't expect to beat FEU in straight sets," said Adamson coach Minerva Dulce Pante. "Lyceum is a strong team but we know we can compete against them."

Pacquiao knows the real Roach?

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

YOU'RE SURE YOU KNOW THIS MAN THE boxing world fondly calls Freddie Roach?

Of course, you don't.

You think Manny Pacquiao knows enough about the trainer who has repackaged him into a prizefight masterpiece? Of course, Pacquiao doesn't know enough of Roach.

In fact, nobody may ever come to learn who the real Freddie Roach is because, unlike in the world of art, the focus in boxing always falls on the creation, not the creator.

You could, in a way, call Roach the Van Gogh of the boxing world. The immortal painter and the great boxing trainer share a classic disheveled look.

OK, but who would ever suspect that Freddie himself had a turbulent past that could rival that of Vincent Van Gogh's?

* * *

The earliest we knew about Van Gogh was that he once dabbled in religious preaching.

The comparison is rather cock-eyed, but who could deny that Roach is himself involved in preaching the profitable infliction of pain? Roach has a famous saloon around Hollywood where he painstakingly carves out future champions.

Van Gogh, for his part, never came to own a workplace of his own, and mainly had only the vast outdoors, the bright, colorful fields in Arles and elsewhere, as his immense, boundless saloon.

* * *

Big, well-heeled people, including politicians and movie actors from the Philippines, travel far and wide to worship at Wild Card.

Pacquiao and all other name fighters who work out there have also made Wild Card loom a lot bigger than the smallish work room that it is.

Meanwhile, Roach regularly does his chore, hardly untouched by the legend that has grown about him through the years.

The work load? Of course, "It ain't easy," as the Wild Card motto, proudly inscribed on signature gym T-shirt, declares.

Pacquiao's amazing work ethic, needless to say, has made him the open model for all-comers at Wild Card.

* * *

For starters, it's impossible to typecast Freddie Roach. Here's one walking riddle who doesn't bother to be enigmatic with anything, whether it involves gym rule or plain friendship.

"You could stay if you want, there's a bed for you here," he told this reporter when I strayed off to Wild Card to cover Pacquiao after the funeral of my eldest sister, who died in California three years ago.

A little over a week ago, back from another Pacquiao win in Las Vegas, he had dinner at the other table and later picked up our bills after we had a few drinks at the Nat's Thai restaurant near Wild Card.

"I got it, man," Freddie announced with a happy wink, leaving a generous tip.

* * *

He was quite accommodating when he agreed to leave his nest and train Pacquiao in Cebu City for the rematch against Marco Antonio Barrera.

But when the crowds proved wild and unruly, Freddie put his foot down and threatened to leave.

He did dance with Pacquiao when the boxing superstar decided to bolt Wild Card after only three days of work since coming back from Manila in early August.

But Roach would have nothing of the nonsense and honestly told HBO that, contrary to claims, the last-minute decision to pack up and leave for Cebu was not part of an original training plan.

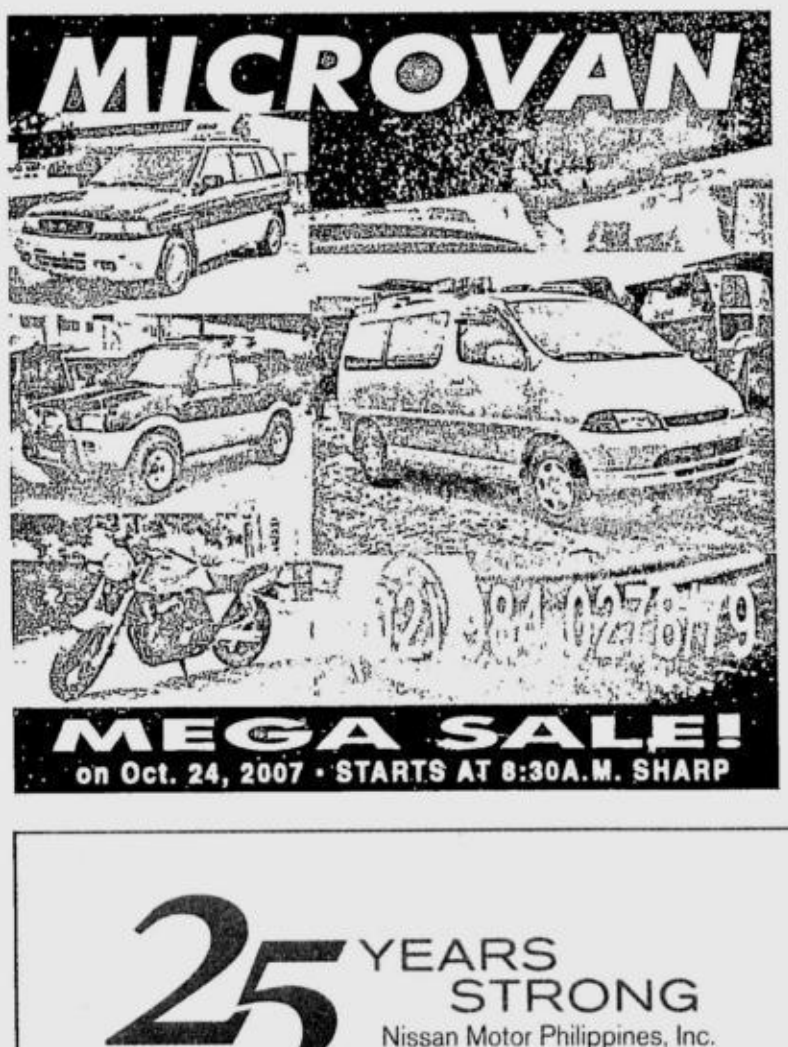
* * *

Roach often mumbles and, by force of nature, is a man of few words.

But there's a half-hidden poster about a movie in the making, pasted knee-high at Wild Card, which speaks of Roach's painful past:

"He had 54 professional fights and they were the easy ones. ROACH: The true story of an angry white boxer driven to be world champion by a brutal tyrant of a father. Forced to end his career prematurely, he turned to battle his family, his personal demons and Parkinson's disease, until he found his true calling as a trainer."

This should have been the lead paragraph in this piece.



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(PDI–Oct. 15, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that a warrant of arrest of **MS. ELVIE CARTECIANO** of No. 141-147 J. Ruiz Street, San Juan, Metro Manila, whose picture appears herein, has been issued by Branch 264 of the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City in Criminal Cases 135120-135218-SJ for Qualified Theft. Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to:

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(PDI - Oct. 15, 2007)

PCAP stagfest at Makati today

EIGHTY-FIVE MATCHES ARE ON TAP AS THE Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines 5-stag derby series resumes at the Makati Coliseum. With two more legs left, Efren Canlas, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Biboy Enriquez, John Capinpin, Ting Arioza, R. Puno, Nato Lacson, Allan Siaco and James Uy, Ric Aquino and the VP Skyscraper entry lead the PCAP Stagfighter of the Year race.

SJC Cockers derby kicks off

THE FOURTH LEG OF THE SJC COCKERS CLUB 5-stag derby series gets going today with more than 80 fights co-presented by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and the San Juan Coliseum. Louie Cua, Osang dela Cruz and Jon Elasique topped the first of the six-leg series, with Max Roxas ruling the second leg and Ducar Dimayuga the third.

Makati, Cebu batters score

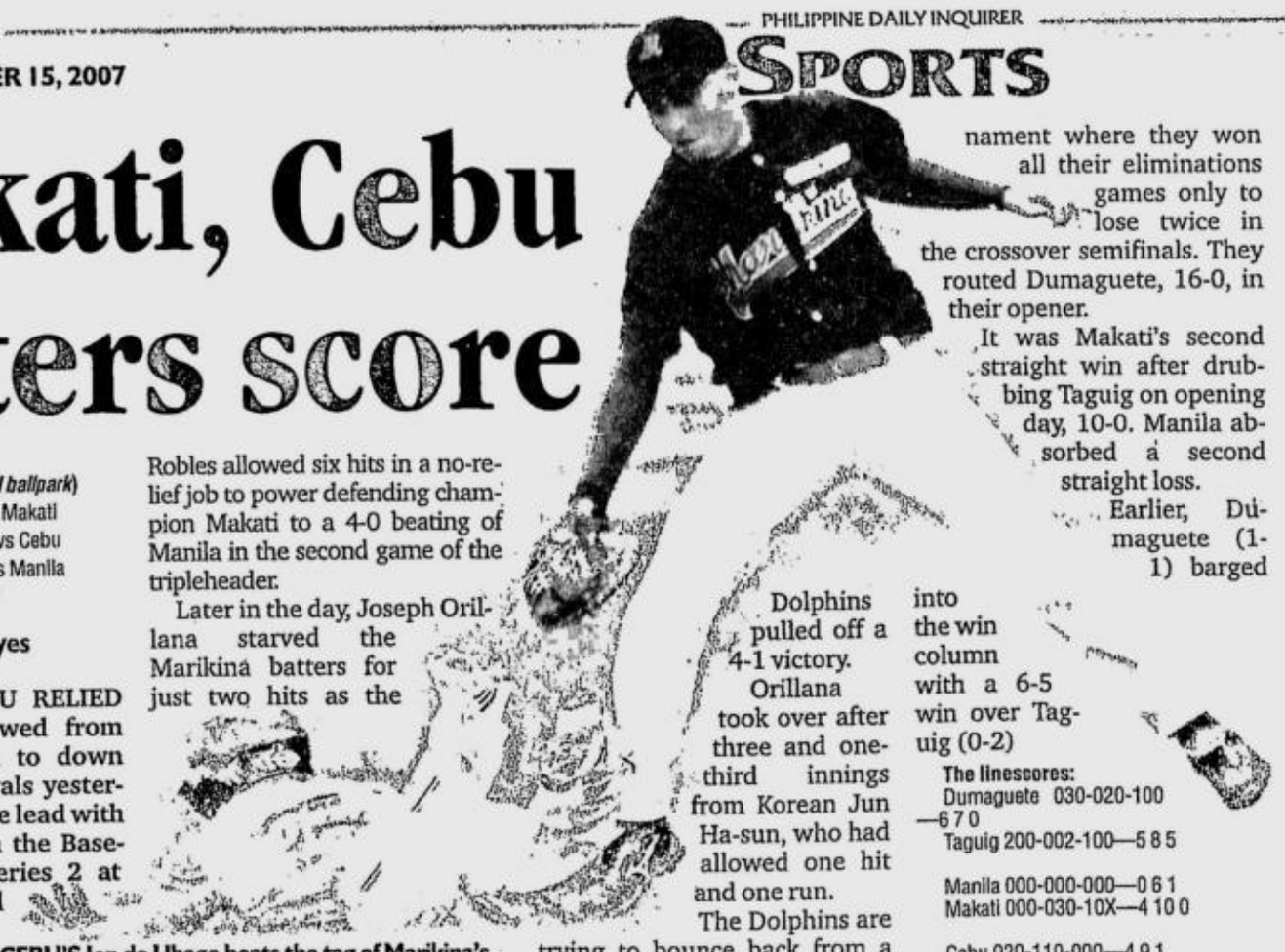
GAMES SUNDAY (*Rizal ballpark*)
10 a.m.—Marikina vs Makati
10:30 a.m.—Taguig vs Cebu
2 p.m.—Dumagete vs Manila

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MAKATI AND CEBU RELIED on pitchers borrowed from the national team to down their respective rivals yesterday and storm to the lead with two wins apiece in the Baseball Philippines Series 2 at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

National team hurler Jonjon Robles allowed six hits in a no-relief job to power defending champion Makati to a 4-0 beating of Manila in the second game of the tripleheader.

Later in the day, Joseph Orillana starved the Marikina batters for just two hits as the Dolphins pulled off a 4-1 victory.


CEBU'S Jon de Ubago beats the tag of Marikina's Stefano Baltao in the third inning. RYAN LIM

Orillana took over after three and one-third innings from Korean Jun Ha-sun, who had allowed one hit and one run.

The Dolphins are trying to bounce back from a miserable stint in the pilot tournament where they won all their eliminations games only to lose twice in the crossover semifinals. They routed Dumaguete, 16-0, in their opener.

It was Makati's second straight win after drubbing Taguig on opening day, 10-0. Manila absorbed a second straight loss.

Earlier, Dumaguete (1-1) barged into the win column with a 6-5 win over Taguig (0-2)

The linescores:

Dumaguete 030-020-100—6 7 0
Taguig 200-002-100—5 8 5

Manila 000-000-000—0 6 1
Makati 000-030-10X—4 10 0

Cebu 020-110-000—4 9 1
Marikina 000-100-000—1 3 1

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Harbour-RP quintet overpowers US Army

SEOUL—THE HARBOUR CENTRE-PHILIPPINE team again leaned on its torrid outside shooting to bomb a US Army squad, 102-88, in a friendly game Saturday at the US Army Base gym in Hanyang district here.

Former FEU hotshot Jeff Chan scored the first 10 points of the game as the Nationals, training here for the 24th SEA Games in Thailand this December, led all the way in clinching their second straight win in three games.

The win followed the Nationals' 91-76 drubbing of Yonsei University Friday where Boyet Bautista starred. Allan Salangsang topscored for the RP side with 16 points while Chan chipped in 14.

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Land Bank of the Philippines ("LBP"), through its Non-Performing Assets (NPA) Disposition Bids and Awards Committee ("NPA-BAC"), hereby issues this Invitation to interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the purchase and assumption of LBP's rights, title, interest and obligations on Assets included in a Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets with total Gross Book Value ("GBV") of approximately Three Billion Two Hundred Million Philippine Pesos (PhP3,200,000,000.00) (the "Transaction").

The Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets will be sold through a sealed-bid public auction process. All interested parties may obtain the detailed Auction Announcement and Registration Package within the period October 15 to 19, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from and at the following address:

THE SECRETARIAT
NPA DISPOSITION BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Sealed-Bid Public Auction of LBP's Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets
Financial Assets Department
Land Bank of the Philippines
30th Floor LANDBANK Plaza
M.H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets
Malate, Manila, Philippines

Interested parties are required (a) to submit the required Registration Documents specified in the aforementioned Auction Announcement and Registration Package and (b) to pay the non-refundable Due Diligence Fee amounting to US Dollars Five Thousand Only (USD5,000.00) to be considered qualified to participate in the Transaction. A Qualified Bidder may subsequently be disqualified to participate in the Transaction should there be any material and/or intentional misstatement of information in the Registration Documents provided to LBP.

The Pre-Qualification Bidder Conference will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on October 18, 2007. The said Pre-Qualification Bidder Conference will be held at the 10th floor, LANDBANK Plaza. The Bidder Registration Cut-Off Date is at 12:00 noon on October 19, 2007. LBP, in its sole and absolute discretion, reserves the right to accept or decline registration documents received from any interested party after said date. Kindly note that registration documents submitted after the Bidder Registration Cut-Off Date will delay the distribution of the Investor Due Diligence Information Package to the particular potential bidder. The Investor Due Diligence period will start on October 22, 2007 and end on November 30, 2007. The bid for the Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets will be opened starting at 12:00 noon on December 5, 2007.

LBP ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY ANY INTERESTED PARTY, PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDER OR WINNING BIDDER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT SUCH PARTY(IES) MAY INCUR IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING PROCESS.

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SPORTS

PACQUIAO TO DIAZ

'If the price is right'

Lightweight king wants Filipino ring icon next

CEBU CITY—HERE'S MANNY PACQUIAO'S REPLY TO lightweight king Juan Diaz's challenge:

"If the price is right," said the Filipino ring icon.

The retort came after Diaz unified three lightweight titles in his bout against Julio Diaz yesterday in Chicago when the latter failed to answer the bell in the ninth round.

Juan Diaz added the IBF lightweight title to his WBA and WBO crowns, leaving just the WBC version of his division as the only missing jewel to his collection.

Another Diaz, David, holds the WBC lightweight diadem, but Juan Diaz made it clear as to who his camp wants next.

"We want (Manny) Pacquiao," promoter Don King said.

Pacquiao announced plans to ascend to the 135-pound ranks after a clinical 12-round dismantling of Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera in a super featherweight bout early this month.

Pacquiao, however, had earlier said he wanted to face David Diaz before stepping back into the super featherweight ranks to challenge 130-pound king Juan Manual Marquez.

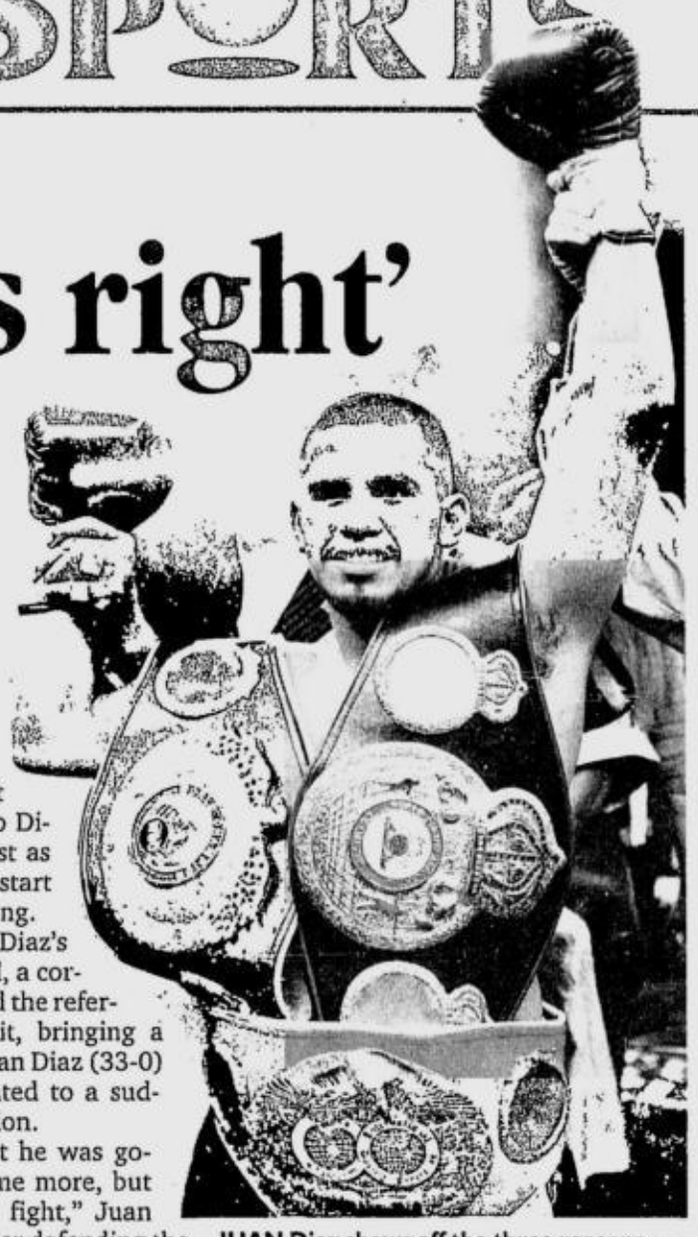
But Juan Diaz feels he should be the one to induct the Filipino into the lightweight ranks.

"I think it's time for him to step up and fight a young Mexican," the Mexican-American Juan Diaz said of Pacquiao.

Juan Diaz's bout against Julio Diaz ended just as the bell to start the round rang.

Julio Diaz's brother, Joel, a cornerman, told the referee to stop it, bringing a fight that Juan Diaz (33-0) had dominated to a sudden conclusion.

"I thought he was going to box me more, but he came to fight," Juan Diaz said after defending the WBA title for the seventh time. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor, AP, AFP*



JUAN Diaz shows off the three reasons—apart from money—why Manny Pacquiao should face him: The WBA, WBO and IBF lightweight belts. AP

Els battles Cabrera in match play final

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND—US Open champion Angel Cabrera will play Ernie Els in Sunday's final at the World Match Play Championship.

Six-time winner Els had to wait Saturday until the 25th hole before he took the lead against Henrik Stenson of Sweden, but the South African then rolled to victory by 3 and 2 at Wentworth. Cabrera was never behind Hunter Mahan but faced a fightback by the American before winning, 2 and 1.

Stenson, who won the Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona in February, won the second hole of the morning when Els three-putted from 25 feet.

Then they halved the next 10 as neither player could get going on the greens. Els got back to level three times on the back nine. *AP*

Pettersen ties Ochoa for Samsung lead

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—Suzann Pettersen birdied the final four holes Saturday to charge into a tie with No. 1 Lorena Ochoa in the Samsung World Championship.

Norway's Pettersen, coming off a playoff victory over the Mexican star last weekend, shot an 8-under 64 to match Ochoa at 12-under 204 after three rounds at Big Horn Golf Club.

"This year, winning six tournaments, she is the world's No. 1 right now and you always chase No. 1," said Pettersen, a three-time winner this year who is a distant second in the player of the year race.

Ochoa, defending champion in the event for the LPGA Tour's elite players, had a 69. *AP*

Nixon lifts Indians past old squad

BOSTON—CLEVELAND'S TROT Nixon sparked an 11th inning rally against his old team as the Indians beat the Boston Red Sox, 13-6, on Sunday to level the American League championship series at 1-1.

The former Red Sox stalwart snapped an 11th-inning tie with a pinch-hit single, prompting the Indians to break loose for six more runs in a record-setting performance.

The anticipated pitching duel between Boston's postseason star Curt Schilling and 19-game winner Fausto Carmona failed to eventuate and the match lasted 5 hours and 14 minutes.

The best-of-seven series now moves to Cleveland for three games. In Game 3, Red Sox rookie pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka will face Jake Westbrook.

The seven runs for Cleveland were the most by a team in one extra inning in postseason history.

Manny Ramirez's homer, his 23rd in a postseason, broke a record he had shared with former New York Yankees star Bernie Williams. *AP*

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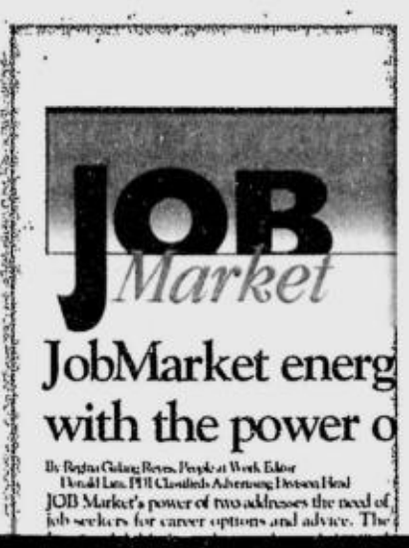

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Gov't moves to save coconut industry

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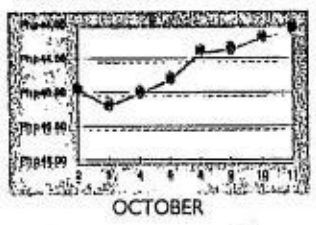

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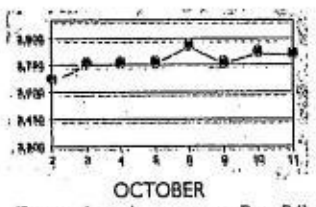

OCTOBER

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Profit-taking seen

SHARE PRICES MAY SURRENDER SOME gains this week as it goes into correction mode, analysts said.

AB Capital Securities analyst Prince Yeung

PROFIT-TAKING/ B3

Invasive pest threatens to wipe out P40-B sector

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS launched a comprehensive four-point program to eradicate an invasive pest threatening to wipe out the P40-billion coconut industry.

According to the DA, the coconut leaf beetle (scientific name: *Brontispa longgissima gestro*) has so far infected more than 171,000 coconut trees in 25 provinces across the country.

Agriculture Undersecretary Bernie Fondevilla said the program against the beetle consisted of:

- mapping coconut-producing areas to determine the total extent of the Brontispa infestation;
- rolling out inoculation procedures to address problems in infested sites, as well as insulate uninfected areas from the pest;
- an information and education campaign to educate coconut growers on how to con-

GOV'T MOVES/ B6

IN THIS ISSUE

ATO, LRA top list of contributors to gov't coffers /B12

First Gen hits gov't tax on natural gas /B14

THE BPO SECTOR is challenging OFW remittances as a profitable and competitive contributor in the country's economy.

BPO sector seen to rival OFW remittances by 2010

By Daxim L. Lucas

DESPITE ALL THAT HAS BEEN SAID AND written about the looming "plateau" in the call center boom, the prospects of the country's business process outsourcing (BPO) remains red hot.

According to the industry's umbrella organization, the BPO sector has the potential to rake in as much as $13 billion in revenues annually by 2010.

"That's almost equal to what our overseas Filipino workers send home every

BPO SECTOR/ B12

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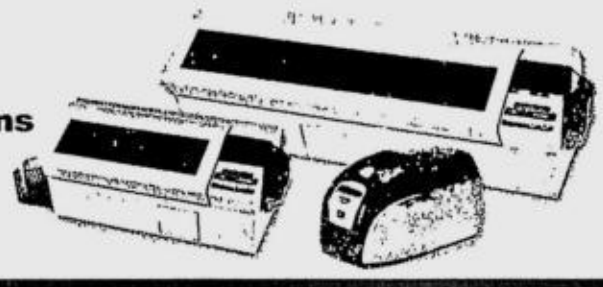

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Profit-taking seen

From page B1

said in a weekly report that investors would also closely track third-quarter corporate earnings that will start to trickle in this week.

"Companies with better-than-expected results can expect a boost while companies that fall short may experience selling. Volume was down toward the end of the week but is expected to increase when trading resumes after the three-day weekend," he said.

The stock market was closed for trading last Friday due to a national public holiday.

AB Capital Securities also said the stock market index might still succumb to profit-taking this week specially due to a lack of fresh leads, and instead take its cue from trends in the US market.

"Good news from abroad may affect the market positively. The strong economic conditions of the Philippines will make the market susceptible to upward rallies made by the Dow," Yeung said.

Last week, the stock index closely mirrored Wall Street's advance after the latest employment report showed 110,000 additional jobs in the United States in September.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

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Investment Funds	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU) as of 9/20/07	as of 9/27/07
Philamlife Equity Fund	1.8496	1.9000
Philamlife Fixed Income Fund	1.3294	1.3241
Philamlife Balanced Fund	0.9913	1.0078
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	1.3701	1.3663
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	1.2048	1.2030

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SMC finalizes $1.2-B loan

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP. HAS FINALized a $1.2-billion (roughly P52.9 billion) loan that will refinance debts and fund the company's ambitious foray into the capital-intensive power sector.

INQUIRER sources said two of the banks that earlier proposed to help arrange the loan included DBS Bank (formerly Development Bank of Singapore) and Mizuno Bank. The final list of banks arranging the loan could not be confirmed with the company.

San Miguel has teamed up with subsidiaries of US private equity firm Texas Pacific Group (TPG) and Malaysian utility firm Tenaga Nasional Berhad for a bid to operate the 25-year concession of electricity grid operator National Transmission Corp.

The bid will be coursed through San Miguel Energy Corp., a 100-percent owned subsidiary of SMC, which has prequalified with its foreign partners for the bidding of one of the government's major power assets.

Local investors who want to participate in the Transco bid must have $300 million in capital to prequalify.

TPG is a leading global private investment firm managing more than $30 billion in capital. It manages a family of funds including private equity, venture capital and public equity and debt investing.

It invests in companies across a broad range of industries and generally seeks to invest in established businesses requiring equity capital between $100 million and $750 million.

Publicly listed Tenaga is the biggest electric utility company in Malaysia. Tenaga's core business is the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. Tenaga controls Malaysia's largest generation capacity of about 11,000 megawatts.

Other companies that have disclosed their prequalification to the auction of the Transco concession in December are A. Brown Co. through Monte Oro Grid Resources Corp., and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. through subsidiary Two Rivers Pacific Holdings Corp. Two Rivers has joined forces with Italy's Terna-Rete Elettrica Nazionale.

San Miguel is also reportedly looking at the government's 600-megawatt Calaca coal-fired plant in Batangas that will be auctioned this month and the remaining interest held by the government in geothermal power producer PNOC-Energy Development Corp.

San Miguel had said it would pour P35 billion (about $750 million) or roughly 10 percent of its total assets into new businesses in power, mining, infrastructure and utilities.

To help fund the ambitious expansion into new businesses, shareholders earlier approved an increase in the company's authorized capital stock to P37.5 billion from P22.5 billion.

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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,230,000*	1,050,000
Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.**	-	250,000/Pls. Call*
Baguio Country Club	-	560,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	290,000
Canlubang Golf	520,000	440,000
Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Club Filipino	120,000	80,000
Eagleridge B*/C**	250,000*/350,000**	200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	100,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/200,000**	50,000
Luisita Golf A	300,000	Pls. Call
Manila Golf Corporate	21,000,000	20,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Polo	5,000,000	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods A/B*	300,000/Pls. Call*	250,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	180,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	230,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	150,000	-
Mimosa C1/C2*/C3**	220,000/680,000**	150,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/250,000*/350,000**	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	120,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	150,000*/250,000**	130,000*/150,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	270,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/130,000*	100,000*
Splendido Teal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	2,100,000	1,600,000
The Palms Country Club	340,000	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	670,000	630,000
Valley Golf	250,000	210,000
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	80,000
Wack Wack Golf	9,500,000	-

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
ALABANG A	1,150,000	1,000,000
ALABANG B	1,250,000	PLS CALL
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	PLS CALL	550,000
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	460,000	PLS CALL
CELEBRITY CLUB	100,000	PLS CALL
CLUB FILIPINO	-	90,000
CLUB PUNTA FUEGO	350,000	PLS CALL
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	PLS CALL	PLS CALL
EAGLERIDGE B	PLS CALL	200,000
FONTANA B	70,000	PLS CALL
FOREST HILLS B	160,000	PLS CALL
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB B	PLS CALL	220,000
MANILA GOLF CORP	21,000,000	PLS CALL
MANILA GOLF IND	20,000,000	PLS CALL
MANILA POLO CLUB	PLS CALL	4,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	280,000	250,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	PLS CALL	600,000
METROCLUB A	150,000	PLS CALL
ORCHARD A	170,000	PLS CALL
ORCHARD B	PLS CALL	PLS CALL
ORCHARD C	350,000	PLS CALL
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	150,000	120,000
RIVIERA GOLF B	PLS CALL	60,000
RIVIERA GOLF C	150,000	150,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	PLS CALL	230,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	60,000	PLS CALL
SHERWOOD HILLS B	120,000	PLS CALL
SPA & LODGE	350,000	PLS CALL
SPLENDIDO	250,000	150,000
STA ELENA A	1,900,000	PLS CALL
SUBIC BAY GOLF CLUB	100,000	PLS CALL
SUMMIT POINT	350,000	PLS CALL
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	PLS CALL	PLS CALL
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	PLS CALL	PLS CALL
THE PALMS IND	350,000	340,000
TOWER CLUB IND.	200,000	150,000
VALLEY GOLF	250,000	220,000
VALLE VERDE	100,000	PLS CALL
WACK WACK	10,000,000	PLS CALL

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,100,000	1,050,000
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,250,000	1,000,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	330,000	280,000
CANLUBANG	-	460,000
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	-
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	2,100,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	120,000	90,000
CLUB FILIPINO	140,000	90,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	150,000	-
EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	200,000
EAGLERIDGE "C"	350,000	-
FOREST HILLS "A"	90,000	45,000
LUISITA GOLF "A"	350,000	250,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	Please Call	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	250,000	220,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	Please Call	20,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	20,000,000	18,000,000
MANILA POLO	Please Call	4,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	300,000	280,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	700,000	-
MANILA YACHT CLUB	100,000	-
MIMOSA (IND)	220,000	-
MT. MALARAYAT GOLF "A"	150,000	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	170,000	160,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	300,000	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	330,000	300,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	160,000	150,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	350,000	270,000
SPA & LODGE	500,000	450,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,900,000	1,700,000
STA. ELENA "B"	-	1,900,000
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	280,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	650,000	630,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	-
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"	340,000	320,000
VALLE VERDE (IND)	100,000	90,000
VALLEY GOLF	250,000	210,000
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	10,000,000	-

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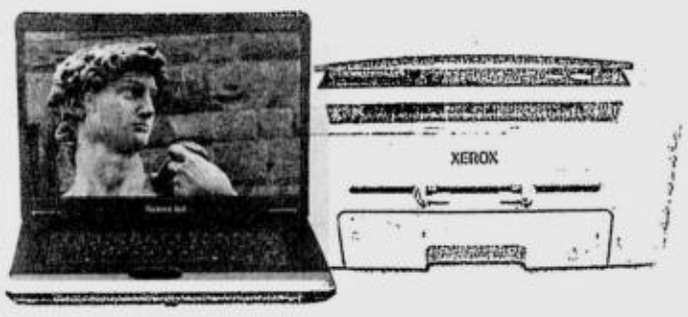

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 11, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	6,000
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	67	67	65.5	66.5	716,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70.5	72	70.5	71.5	2,061,500
748	508	China Banking Corp.	715	730	715	730	2,640
40	19	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Banking Corp.	40	40	40	40	1,100
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	100
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	2,150,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	64.5	66.5	64.5	66.5	2,480,800
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	56	56	55	56	63,800
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	1,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28.5	30	28	29.5	3,690,600
90	53	Security Bank Corp.	78.5	79	78.5	79	271,900
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	54	54	53	53.5	996,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.1	5.3	4.1	4.55	131,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.92	1.98	1.9	1.96	2,401,000
16.25	4.2	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13	13	12.5	12.75	554,100
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.95	1.12	0.95	1.1	2,970,000
1,885.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,850.00	1,860.00	1,850.00	1,855.00	1,200
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.7	1,371,000
3.1	1.06	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	190,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	910	1,005.00	905	1,005.00	61,690
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,330.00	2,340.00	2,330.00	2,340.00	360
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	31,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.6	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	7,330,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	250,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	110,800
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	84.5	86	84.5	86.5	460,500
17.25	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	17	16.5	16.75	4,255,400
105.45	20	Manila Electric Co.	84	84.5	83.5	83.5	1,173,500
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.1	6.9	7	18,005,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	7,385,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	99,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	30,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.32	83,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	37,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.08	2.08	2	2	569,000
26.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	2,000
61	36.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	55	54	55	1,426,700
9.1	6.3	Pancake House Inc.	9	9	9	9	1,000
10.75	10	Phil. Tob. Flue Curing & Redry Corp.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	2,000
0.98	0.45	RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	600,000
3.85	2.08	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.55	2.55	74,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	61.5	61.5	61	61	57,200
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	62.5	62.5	62	62	113,700
0.66	0.25	Swift Foods Inc.	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	70,000
5.4	2	Tandang Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.4	467,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	16	700,500
0.55	0.29	Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	400,000
		CONSTRUCTION/INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.90	ELI Corp.	6	6	4.8	5	480,000
21.5	0	Federal Resources Investment Group Inc.	11	11.75	11	11.25	601,900
9.2	4.65	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.6	8.3	8.6	125,000
2	0.3	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.32	1.36	1.3	1.32	5,780,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.76	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.1	6.1	4.95	4.95	656,000
1.48	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.62	0.14	Pacific Basin Co. Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.45	9,845,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.76	A Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	77,000
0.17	0.028	AJC.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	11,880,000
1.26	0.22	AJC Group Inc.	0.84	0.86	0.82	0.83	10,110,000
3.65	1.6	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.3	3,436,000
3.7	1.6	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.45	3.6	3.3	3.35	350,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	66,200,000
8.7	6.5	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	716,000
0.021	0.0075	Acoern Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	57,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	23,570,000
1.38	0.62	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	860,000
1.5	0.21	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
2.9	0.86	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.34	586,000
615	307.92	Ayala Corp.	585	600	570	600	280,520
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,400
5.8	1.36	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.55	4.8	5,100,000
10.25	4.2	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.3	9.7	9.3	9.6	2,830,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	20,000
2.6	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	27,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.9	7	6.9	7	298,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.12	206,000
14.5	7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	333,500
6.9	0.61	Jollivilla Holdings Corp.	2.18	2.32	2.1	2.26	1,210,000
0.98	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.73	0.66	0.66	5,360,000
11.5	1.38	Minerales Industrias Corp.	8.2	8.4	8	8.1	4,235,000
0.28	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.23	0.235	0.22	0.22	172,150,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.77	350,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	1,050,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	40,000
462.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	406	410	405	407.5	117,610
2.1	1.06	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	7,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.48	0.51	0.47	0.49	86,010,000
1.06	0.6	Solid Group Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.7	0.77	480,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	164,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	16	16	16	16	1,500
0.75	0.1	Wellax Industries Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.42	2,020,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	470,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	767,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.7	15,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.78	3,020,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	22,050,200
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.38	7,304,000
4.7	2.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.25	37,000
2.7	1.08	Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	45,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	2,780,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.84	0.79	0.83	55,130,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.31	30,680,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	26,642,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.9	1.8	1.84	39,267,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	200,000
1.12	0.25	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.67	0.7	0.66	0.67	20,130,000
4.4	1.75	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.05	3.95	4	44,806,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.6	5.3	4.6	5.2	2,665,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	770,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	500,000
23	12.75	Robinson Land Corp.	19.25	19.5	19	19.5	3,155,700
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.35	1,142,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	5,381,600
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc.	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	70,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.69	0.75	0.69	0.72	3,340,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.31	19,010,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	6	6	5.8	6	3,756,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31.5	32	26,100
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc	8.9	9	8.9	8.9	283,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.54	1.58	1.54	1.56	383,000
1,705.00	1,070.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,630.00	1,670.00	1,630.00	1,665.00	33,580
3,285.00	2,155.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,105.00	3,105.00	3,070.00	3,090.00	170,880
8.1	4.6	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	8	8	7.8	8	1,518,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	11,110,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.8	1,399,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.048	51,400,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.86	80,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	23,370,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.42	775,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	59,500,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	3.4	3.55	3.25	3.35	11,071,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	60,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	40,000
40	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39	39.5	39	39.5	507,800
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	54,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	162,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	150,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	30,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.72	2,860,000
1.2	0.44	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.8	0.81	0.78	0.81	2,290,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	2,000
3.7	2.6	ePeople Inc	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	67,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	346,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	62,500
30	10.5	Paxys Inc	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	1,278,300
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	271,900,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	630,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.25	14.75	15	2,938,500
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.5	14	12.5	13.25	221,400
10.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9.5	10.5	8.7	9.8	11,108,000
3.1	0.53	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.55	28,724,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	11,900,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	8,180,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	46,200,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	19,200,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21.75	21.75	21	21.25	1,017,900
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	95,000,000
8.5	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	8,263,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	38	38.5	38	38.5	73,000
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1.04	527,000
1.8	0.57	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	3,754,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	11,300,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	251,200,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	73,700,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	397,900,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	988.77 UP	4.34	20,853,490	651,760,145.00
Industrial	4,792.02 UP	12.42	61,176,200	559,208,980.00
Holding Firms	2,188.00 UP	11.45	495,094,030	568,522,395.00
Property	1,729.41 DOWN	10.01	292,663,500	922,044,350.00
Service	1,860.60 DOWN	16.65	169,031,160	706,364,405.00
Mining & Oil	7,661.19 DOWN	4.91	1,243,737,800	368,007,090.00
All Shares Index	2,393.32 DOWN	1.26		
PSEi	3,824.20 DOWN	10.51

Wanted: Filipino investments

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito Habito

BSP FIGURES RE-leased last week tell us that inflows of net foreign direct investment (i.e., not counting portfolio investments or "hot money") from January to July grew a whopping 70 percent over the same period last year, even better than the 50-percent growth posted last year. It would seem from the numbers that attracting foreign investments has not been a major hurdle lately.

But we have a problem. When we add foreign and domestic investments together to get total investments in our economy, the number had been falling continuously from quarter to quarter since early 2005, with the negative growth turning only slightly positive in recent quarters.

What does all this tell us? It takes simple arithmetic to figure out that the domestic part of investment must have been falling rather steeply over the last two years.

Dramatic contrast

Why this dramatic contrast between the behavior of foreign and Filipino investors? Do foreign investors know something that Filipino business people don't? Do foreigners have better faith in our economy's longer term potentials, and are manifesting that confidence in dollar votes for our future? Are Filipino investors too short-sighted and inordinately deterred by short-term distractions—as Malacañang would prefer to characterize our persistent woes on the political and governance front?

Or is it actually the other way around? Do Filipino business people know our country more intimately than their foreign counterparts, and know something that the latter don't? Are Filipinos better-informed and more attuned to our economy's true outlook—and are manifesting it through their own peso votes (or lack of it) for our future? The answer, of course, is for the investors themselves to tell.

Falling far behind

Whichever way it is, the cold hard fact is that we are lagging behind our Southeast Asian neighbors in the way we are investing in our own economy. Between 2002 and 2005, our annual investment growth averaged only 0.6 percent. Compare that to 3 percent in Malaysia, 4 percent in Indonesia, 11 percent in Vietnam and Thailand, and a zooming 20 percent in Cambodia! Have you been to Cambodia lately? The way tourism is booming there and with the rapid facelift Phnom Penh and Siem Reap are undergoing, we may be seeing yet another neighbor threatening to pass us by! And given more recent investment figures, we may be falling even farther behind our neighbors.

Viewed in this light, the government is right in lining up massive investments in infrastructure for the years ahead. I have already pointed out before that our extraordinary jump to 7.5-percent GDP growth is explained entirely by the steep double-digit growth in government spending, both in regular expenses and especially in infrastructure. The government has obviously been trying to pump-prime the economy. The problem is that the pump, so far, refuses to be primed. Private domestic investment has yet to follow the government's lead.

Critical link

Where do we need the investments most? With 61 percent of our 2.8 million unemployed never having gone beyond high school, I have constantly argued that agriculture (including agribusiness) and tourism will be our best bet for creating these much-needed jobs relatively quickly. There remains great job creation potential both within and near our country's farms. A critical link is agri-processing enterprises, which would expand the markets for our farm products, especially nontraditional and high-value crops, both here at home and overseas.

Local governments can play a much stronger role in fostering the right environment to attract more investments to strengthen this critical link. Over the years, our main obstacle in agriculture has been an overcentralized approach to the sector that is prone to inefficiency and graft. Worse, that overcentralized bureaucracy has had the most unstable leadership among major government departments in recent memory.

More than infra

As for tourism, our

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PELAC Balanced Fund	1.0408	1.0275

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Trust assets held by investment houses, banks up 23% to P1T

More people shifting to alternative investment instruments

By Doris C. Dumlao

ASSETS MANAGED BY TRUST institutions in the country hit P1 trillion in the first semester as investors shifted to alternative instruments due to low interest rates on deposits.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data showed the total trust assets held by banks and investment houses rose by 23 percent to P1.07 trillion in the first six months of the year from P872 billion as of end 2006.

Trust assets are considered off-balance sheet items in banks' and quasi-banks' books. This is because clients assume all risks that go with these instruments, as opposed to traditional deposits whose interest earnings are guaranteed.

Traditional trusts and other fiduciary accounts amounted to P546 billion, representing 51 percent of the industry's resources. These accounts include businesses generated from the appointment of retirement/pension/trust funds and pre-need trusts as trustees of living and other personal/corporate trusts, as well as mortgage and collateral trusts.

Investment management accounts or IMAs represented the second largest segment of the trust industry, accounting for P322 billion, or 30 percent of total industry resources.

Trust Officers Association of the Philippines (TOAP) president Ma. Lourdes T. de Vera, senior vice president of Banco de Oro EPCI Bank, said the IMAs grew by P146 billion or 83 percent in the first half of the year from year ago.

The sharp growth, she said, boosted the increase in the share of trust accountabilities from 20 percent to 30 percent of the industry's total resources.

This is an indication of the investing public's strong preference for banks' and investment houses' trust departments to serve as their portfolio managers, De Vera said.

She said the BSP's policy allowing trust entities to access the high-yielding special deposit accounts or SDA facility *(see related story on B7)* to mop up excess liquidity in the financial system was the stimulus to the growth of the trust industry.

Unit investment trust funds or UITFs were steady at P172 billion in terms of total resources as of June 30.

UITF returns have also been satisfactory, De Vera said. Based on one-year returns, she said the top five best performing funds were UITFs. Of the 10 best performing funds, the majority were also UITFs.

PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Alfredo Yao, chair emeritus Miguel Valera, president Sammie Lim and Megaworld Corp. chair and president Andrew Tan (4th from left) lower the time capsule to signal the start of the construction of the 15-story McKinley Civic Center in the fully integrated township of McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio. The center will house PCCI's new headquarters which will be completed by 2009. The 2,000-square-meter office space was donated by Megaworld to PCCI last June. Looking on are other officials of the business group and Megaworld.

Full audit of Philcomsat firms sought

THE LOCSIN-POBLADOR GROUP IS SEEKing an independent audit of all the companies under the Philcomsat group to ensure full transparency.

"The government owns an undisputed 35 percent of the group (of companies) and another 5 percent that is under litigation. The public must know how much of their funds and assets are left especially with the Ilusorio-Africa group filing more than 50 cases just to keep itself in control of POTC (the mother company) and Philcomsat," it said in a statement.

These cases, the Locsin-Poblador Group claimed, had kept the government out of the two companies. It also alleged in the statement that the Ilusorio-Africa group had refused to have these companies audited since 2000, when both had P4 billion in assets and P1.4 billion in cash and near-cash assets.

In a Senate inquiry last year, the Ilusorio-Africa group admitted that the two companies had no more money.

Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), a listed company headed by Enrique Locsin and Concepcion Poblador, has been under yearly audits until last year when the Ilusorio-Africa group sued PHC's external auditor.

"We want independent and unimpeachable parties to be part of the audit. This is the best way to find out which party is telling the truth and has been true to its mandate to conserve corporate assets," it added.

The two groups have been at a virtual legal deadlock after government representatives, elected in 1998, were physically prevented by the Ilusorio group from taking their board positions in POTC and Philcomsat.

The Ilusorio group then conducted its own election in 2000 and installed its members instead.

Since then, the books of the two companies were kept from the public and even the government. The Ilusorio group also filed more than 50 cases in court questioning the election of government representatives.

APC Mining in talks with 3 prospective foreign investors

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

APC MINING CORP., A FULLY OWNED subsidiary of listed holding firm APC Group Inc., said it would need at least $21 million to jumpstart initial exploration and production activities in its three mining sites.

Belle Corp. chair Willy Ocier, who also heads the APC Group, said at least $2 million would be spent for each of the priority mining sites in Mindanao and Palawan. Another $5 million to $7 million will be needed to start the mineral production in each of these three mines.

The company's priority sites are: A 2,673-hectare mine in Alubijid, Misamis Oriental which has a potential yield of 900,000 metric tons of chromite; a 2,400-hectare property in Narra, Palawan for which has a potential reserves of 500,000 MT of nickel, and the 2,678-hectare site in Brooke's Point, Palawan, about 20,000 MT of nickel.

Ocier said APC Mining had been in talks with Chinese, Indian and Australian companies who were interested to enter into joint venture agreements with APC for the development of its mining assets.

Last May, APC Mining filed applications for 10 exploration permits for several sites in Zambales, Misamis Oriental, Palawan and Mindoro Occidental. These permits would cover 28,845 hectares of mine fields containing chromite and nickel.

APC Mining said it would conduct exploration activities in these areas. The company said it would later apply for Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) once the presence of mineral deposits in these areas is proven and if such deposits are of commercial quantities.

The APC Group earlier said it was eyeing investments in oil, energy and mining.

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Galoc profit to fund ... From page B14

"As the first oil field development in the Philippines in 15 years, Galoc is an important demonstration of the success of the DOE's efforts in this area," he said.

The ongoing activity on the Galoc oil field will involve the drilling of a pilot hole that will enable the service contract consortium to determine the geological properties of the reservoir located in the southern part of the contract area.

This would aid GPC in the planning and design of succeeding production wells.

Drilling of the pilot hole and two horizontal wells would take 82 days to complete, with the subsequent production test to take another 180 days.

"The appraisal program is designed to collect sufficient information to optimize the trajectories of the production wells and also to support any future decision for further development of the field," GPC had earlier said in a report to the DOE. *Abigail L. Ho*

Gov't moves to save ... From page B1

tain and eradicate the pest, and

- a livelihood component to assist farmers gravely affected by the infestation.

"We will create a working group under the Philippine Coconut Authority to monitor the program," Fondevilla said.

Fondevilla said the DA has also teamed up with the Philippine National Police and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines to intensify their ongoing efforts to combat the pest threatening the coconut industry.

Fondevilla, who also sits as executive director of the National Agricultural and Fisheries Council, said these new efforts were in compliance with EO 664, which mandated the DA and PCA to undertake emergency measures to prevent the pest from spreading in the 68 coconut-producing provinces.

He explained that the PCA was already implementing a series of measures to contain the spread of the coconut beetle.

"But a more comprehensive program has now become necessary to totally eradicate the pest threatening to obliterate the domestic coconut industry," he stressed.

Meanwhile, PCA Administrator Oscar Garin said the agency has developed an inexpensive treatment for Brontispa-infested plants, which costs only P5 to P7 a tree.

He said that so far, the PCA has already treated more than 70,000 coconut trees.

Earlier, the DA issued Special Quarantine Order No. 1, which had put under quarantine Metro Manila and 26 provinces infested with the coconut beetle.

This prohibited movements of coconut seed nuts and seedlings from these infected areas to non-infected places.

The DA has likewise banned the importation of palm seed nuts and seedlings from over two dozen countries with reported Brontispa infestations.

Maybank

Currencies

October 14, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.706714	1.000000	44.1730
Japan	Yen	0.006028	0.008530	0.3768
United Kingdom	Pound	1.443604	2.042700	90.2322
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091112	0.128924	5.6950
Switzerland	Franc	0.597593	0.845594	37.3524
Canada	Dollar	0.720842	1.019992	45.0561
Singapore	Dollar	0.482102	0.682175	30.1337
Australia	Dollar	0.635363	0.899038	39.7132
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.875667	2.654069	117.2382
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189341	0.267917	11.8347
Brunei	Dollar	0.480464	0.679856	30.0313
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022493	0.031827	1.4059
UAE	Dirham	0.192476	0.272353	12.0306
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.415000	62.5048
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001092	0.0482
China	Yuan**	0.094084	0.133129	5.8807
Denmark	Kroner	0.134229	0.189934	8.3900
India	Rupee	0.018061	0.025556	1.1289
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209583	0.296560	13.0999
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539517	0.763417	33.7224
Sweden	Kroner	0.109459	0.154885	6.8417
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021695	0.030698	1.3560

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 10, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 10, 2007

Cost of siphoning off excess money surged in Q2

More investments placed in Bangko Sentral's SDAs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas' aggressive use of high-yielding special deposit accounts (SDAs) since May has nearly tripled the cost of mopping up excess money in the system in the second quarter of the year.

BSP statistics showed that interest expenses on these SDAs surged to P2.66 billion in the second quarter from only P957 million in the first quarter.

The second quarter cost even exceeded the P2.21 billion in interests paid by the BSP on these instruments for the whole of 2006. This can be attributed to the surge in the volume of placements in SDAs following the relaxation of the rules governing placements in these instruments.

"It's because of the volume, not the rate paid," said BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo.

In the first quarter, funds locked up in SDAs amounted to only P53.9 billion. These rose to P282 billion in the second quarter as the central bank widened access to these instruments.

Money market dealers have started questioning the sustainability of the SDAs, especially since the BSP is also incurring foreign exchange losses arising from the strengthening of the peso against the US dollar.

The BSP, however, has become more reliant on the SDAs, and less on its main monetary tool—the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase agreement (RRP).

As of Sept. 14, the central bank has locked up P456.6 billion in excess money in these SDAs versus only P227 billion placed in RRPs.

"The market acceptance of SDAs has been stronger than expected," Guinigundo said.

This, he said, was despite the fact the SDAs were placements and could not be traded.

Unlike the RRPs, the SDAs are not backed by government securities. The SDAs became much more attractive when, in May this year, the BSP reformed the rules to make it a more potent monetary tool.

Even banks' trust departments and nonbank state corporations can now place funds with the SDAs and earn attractive interest rates. The BSP has also made these instruments eligible as compliance to the required 50-percent liquidity floor, or the portion of bank deposits and deposit substitutes that is required to be held in the form of negotiable and transferable government securities.

When the BSP slashed its overnight borrowing rate by 25 basis points to 5.75 percent last Oct. 4, the rates on SDAs were also lowered.

UBS Investment Research said this would imply a "somewhat more significant easing" of policy rates than the 25-basis point headline cut, as SDA rates were about 38 basis points more than the overnight rates. Guinigundo, however, said that when the policymaking Monetary Board reviewed the monetary settings, the prime considerations were the inflation outlook and risks.

"We didn't discuss sustainability or the effect on our bottom line," Guinigundo said.

"It's difficult for us but that's our mandate. We can't renege on our mandate to provide monetary stability," he said.

"RRP is still the orthodox open market tool but for as long as we can mop up liquidity using SDAs, we will do so," he said.

Before the rules on the SDAs were changed, the broad money supply was growing by more than 20 percent largely due to remittances from overseas Filipinos and foreign investors betting on local stocks and bonds.

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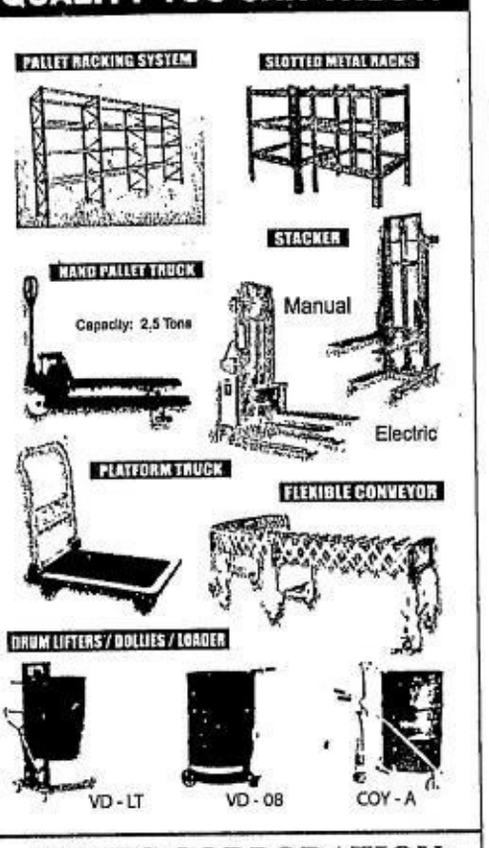

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Pateco taps Middle East market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A HOME-GROWN SUPPLIER OF BUILDING materials based in the typhoon-prone province of Aurora, Pacific Timber Export Corp., is training its sights on the booming Middle East market to ramp up its business.

Pateco, along with six other small and medium enterprises that are making names in the home building export market, is taking part in The Big 5 Show in the Dubai International Exhibition Center on Nov. 25-29.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, The Big 5 Show is considered as the biggest building materials event with a strong and reliable sales track record.

The annual show, which has been running for 25 years, attracts contractors, architects, developers, specifiers and distributors—72 percent of which came from the United Arab Emirates, 14 percent from the Persian Gulf states and other Arab countries, and the rest from India, Iran and Europe, Citem said.

The Big 5 Show exhibits products in air-conditioning and refrigeration; water and environment; glass and metals; marble and machinery; bathroom and ceramics; cleaning and maintenance; and building and construction materials.

Established in 1960, Pateco is considered a leader in the integrated wood processing industry in the Philippines. It is also engaged in industrial tree plantation, sawmill and plywood making, and lumber dealership.

Tetangco among top 7 central bank chiefs

TETANGCO

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. is among the world's seven top-rated central bank chiefs, according to this year's survey of New York-based magazine Global Finance.

In the Central Bank Report Cards 2007 covering 31 countries, one of the highlights of the magazine's October issue, Tetangco was given an "A" grade. This was at par with the grades given to his peers from Sweden, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan and Israel.

Tetangco's rating was higher than the grade obtained by the central bank chiefs of wealthy economies like the European Union, Canada, United States and Japan, who got C+ ratings.

The central bank chief of China, which has the world's largest gross international reserves (GIR) but often criticized by western leaders for keeping the yuan undervalued, also got a C+ rating.

The magazine noted that the Philippine economy had been growing at its fastest rate in two decades while inflation had dropped well below the central bank's 4- to 5-percent target range.

It also cited the rise in the country's gross international reserves to all-time highs.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover its foreign exchange requirements. It is composed of gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund.

"A strong currency has reduced the peso equivalent of the country's foreign debt servicing requirements and is also helping moderate inflation," Global Finance said.

The peso has appreciated by more than 10 percent since the start of this year to become the second best performer among emerging Asian currencies next to the Indian rupee.

The magazine also cited the BSP's cut in overnight borrowings by 150 basis points in July, the first monetary easing in four years.

Earlier this month, the BSP further slashed its benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points following the US Federal Reserve's surprise 50-basis point cut in September. "Remittances from overseas workers are rising while steady rains over key growing areas have eased fears of a prolonged drought," Global Finance said.

"Tetangco cannot take credit for the weather but he deserves a top grade for helping to create an environment conducive to sustained growth," it said.

Doris C. Dumlao

No free lunch

From page B5

problem, as I have constantly maintained, lies more in policy and less in infrastructure. With rapidly rising numbers of affluent Chinese and Indian tourists coming out of those countries' zooming economies, there should be great opportunities for a massive increase in our tourism-related jobs. But it seems we are willingly foregoing the opportunities in the way we continue to make it more costly and difficult for those tourists to fly into the Philippines. And this we are doing by unnecessarily limiting the airline seats available, all because our seemingly captured policymakers choose to put the profits of the already lucrative dominant domestic carriers above the wider national interest. (Wonder why Cambodia has been getting far more tourists than we do?)

We can unleash far more job-creating investments by both Filipinos and foreigners than what we manage to get now. But first, our leaders must take to heart what investors appear to be saying loud and clear: Infrastructure investments are good, but what we need, more than anything else, is good governance. *Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

Hyundai Azera: The Art of Perfection

The Hyundai Azera is setting new benchmarks in the Philippine luxury car market. As the flagship passenger sedan of Hyundai, the leading automotive manufacturer in South Korea, the new Azera exhibits European sophistication in styling and engineering.

The Azera exterior has undergone a makeover to offer class-leading features. These include front fog lamps; rear combination lamps with horizontal bezel strip lamps; solar control glass; and turn signals on the side view mirror with power folding feature; high intensity discharge projector type headlamps (with black bezel surrounding and headlamp leveling device) which turn on automatically in dim or dark surroundings, and wipers that turn on when it senses rain.

For interiors, the Azera offers the sophistication and luxury promised by its exterior. It comes with a leather package that encompasses seats, door trims, console box and steering wheel. Both driver and front passenger enjoy best-in-class power seat adjustments, 10-way adjustments for the driver and 4-way for the front seat passenger. An Integrated Memory System allows drivers to pre-set favourite seat adjustments to complement side view mirror and tilt-telescopic steering column.

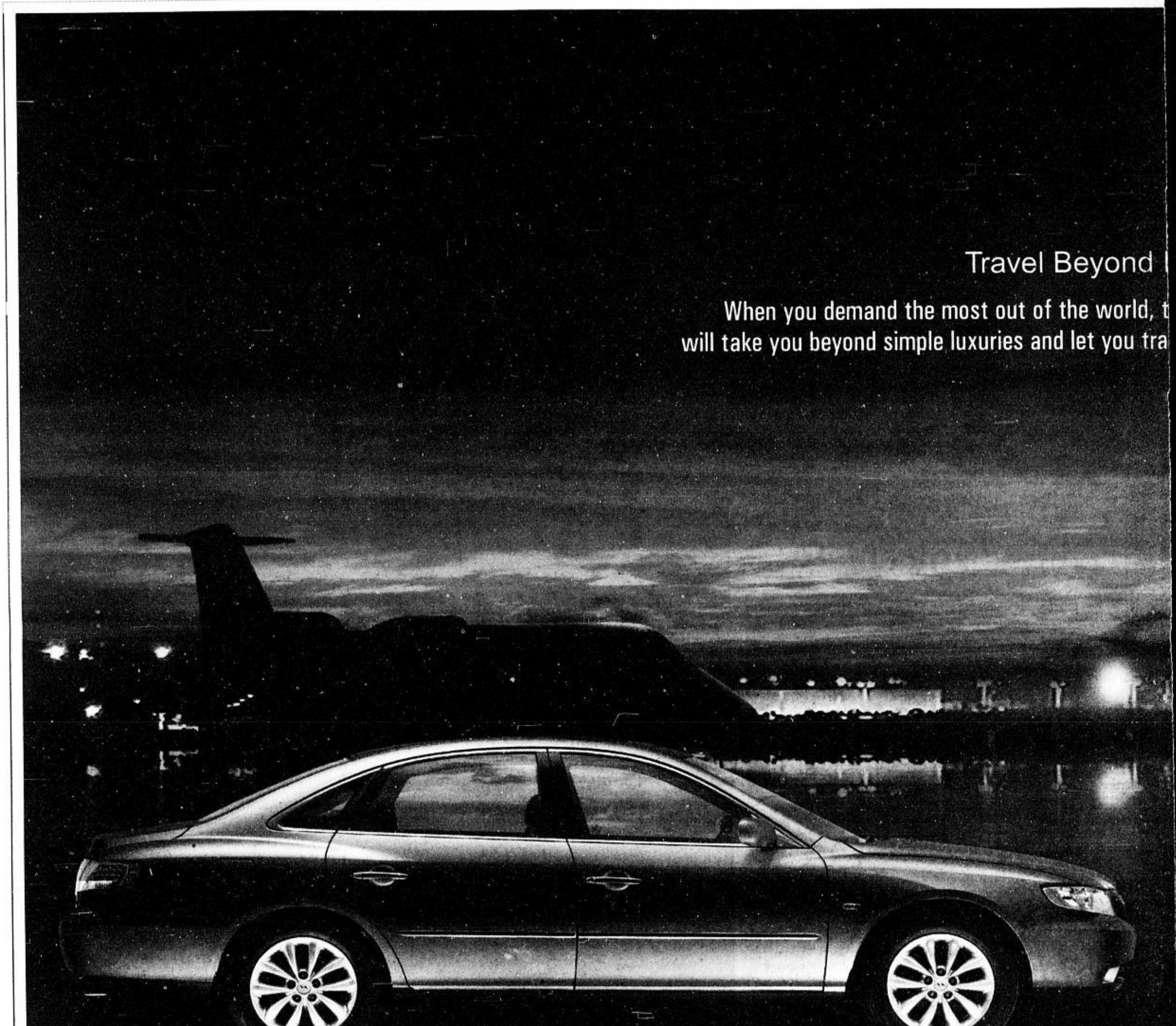
The Azera is the only passenger car in its class powered by a 3.3-liter V6 24-valve DOHC with CVVT gasoline engine that generates 235 ps at 6,000 rpm and 31 Kilogram-meter of torque at 3,500 rpm. The engine is mated to Hyundai's 5-speed H-Matic transmission to make the Azera a smooth and powerful ride.

Hyundai has also filled the Azera with most of the safety features expected in a high end passenger sedan. These include dual front SRS airbags, side (front and rear) and curtain airbags, seatbelts with emergency locking retractors, dual pretensioners, load limiters and height adjusters, keyless entry with alarm, impact sensing door locks, child safety rear door locks, and high mount stop light.

Active safety systems in the Azera include Anti-lock Brake System with Electronic Brake Force Distribution, and Electronic Stability Program with Brake Assist and Traction Control System.

The Hyundai Azera has a rich history of winning awards and citations from prestigious international automobile publications, industry research institutions, and consumer award-giving bodies.

Among its many awards are "Vehicle Satisfaction Award for Large Cars" from the AutoPacific 2007 Ideal Vehicle Awards; "Highest Rated Car" from the AutoPacific 2006 Ideal Vehicle Awards; "Most Appealing Large Car" from J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study; "Best New Family Car" from the 2006 Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC); "Second in Large Car Segment" from the J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Initial Quality Study (IQS); Top Crash Test Ratings from the 2006 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety; "Best



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HYUNDAI AUTHORIZED DEALERS

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- Hyundai J. Abad Santos - 256 9837, 256 2988, 253 1373, 256 0511
- Hyundai Alabang - 800 1771, 800 7344, 802 3574, 802 3653
- Hyundai Balintawak - 362 0301
- Hyundai Commonwealth - 951 2201 to 10, 952 9891 to 97
- Hyundai EDSA - 882 2434, 751 0111, 751 0927 to 28
- Hyundai E. Rodriguez Sr. - 415 4115, 416 3833, 416 5787, 722 0932
- Hyundai Global City - 818 0888, 856 2851 to 55
- Hyundai Manila Bay - 818 5071 to 73, 556 1491 to 93, 556 1576
- Hyundai Ortigas - 723 9101 to 07, 721 2544
- Hyundai Otis - 561 2740, 564 6128, 564 8035, 564 5956
- Hyundai Pasig City - 672 3801 to 04
- Hyundai Quezon Avenue - 411 2720, 374 3911
- Hyundai Shaw Blvd. - 722 9836, 723 5386, 725 2428
- Hyundai Sucat - 829 0890, 828 6282 to 83
- Hyundai Marcos Hi way - 668 1858 (SOON TO OPEN)

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- Hyundai Lipa - (043) 757 0340, (043) 312 3888, (043) 756 6003
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Luxurious Car for a Non-Luxury Price" from the 2006 Forbes.com Best Cars for the Bucks Award.

Hyundai Sonata: A Symphony of Elegance

If you're looking for the ideal combination of style and substance in an executive sedan, the Hyundai Sonata is your perfect choice as it combines sophisticated styling, quality and performance.

The Sonata is classified by the US EPA as a "Large Car" putting it in a class above its competition. It has also been cited as the "2007 Most Ideal Premium Mid-size Car" and the "2006 Premium Mid-size" Car: AutoPacific 2006 Ideal Vehicle Awards.

Prestigious international automobile publications also have recognized the Sonata's excellence in design and performance. The awards include "Most Dependable Sedan 2006" from Road and Travel Magazine, USA; "Executive Car of the Year 2006" from Business Standard Motoring, India; "Best Family Sedan" from MotorWeek's 2006 Drivers' Choice Awards, USA; The Sonata was also hailed as Premium Mid-size Car" in the 2006 AutoPacific Ideal Vehicle Awards. And in 2005, Popular Mechanics Magazine cited the Sonata for "Excellence for Automotive Safety.

In the Philippine market, Hyundai offers the Sonata 3.3 GLS AT and the Sonata 2.4 GLS AT. The two variants share the same sleek, refined body with sculpted hood that invites one to take a closer look.

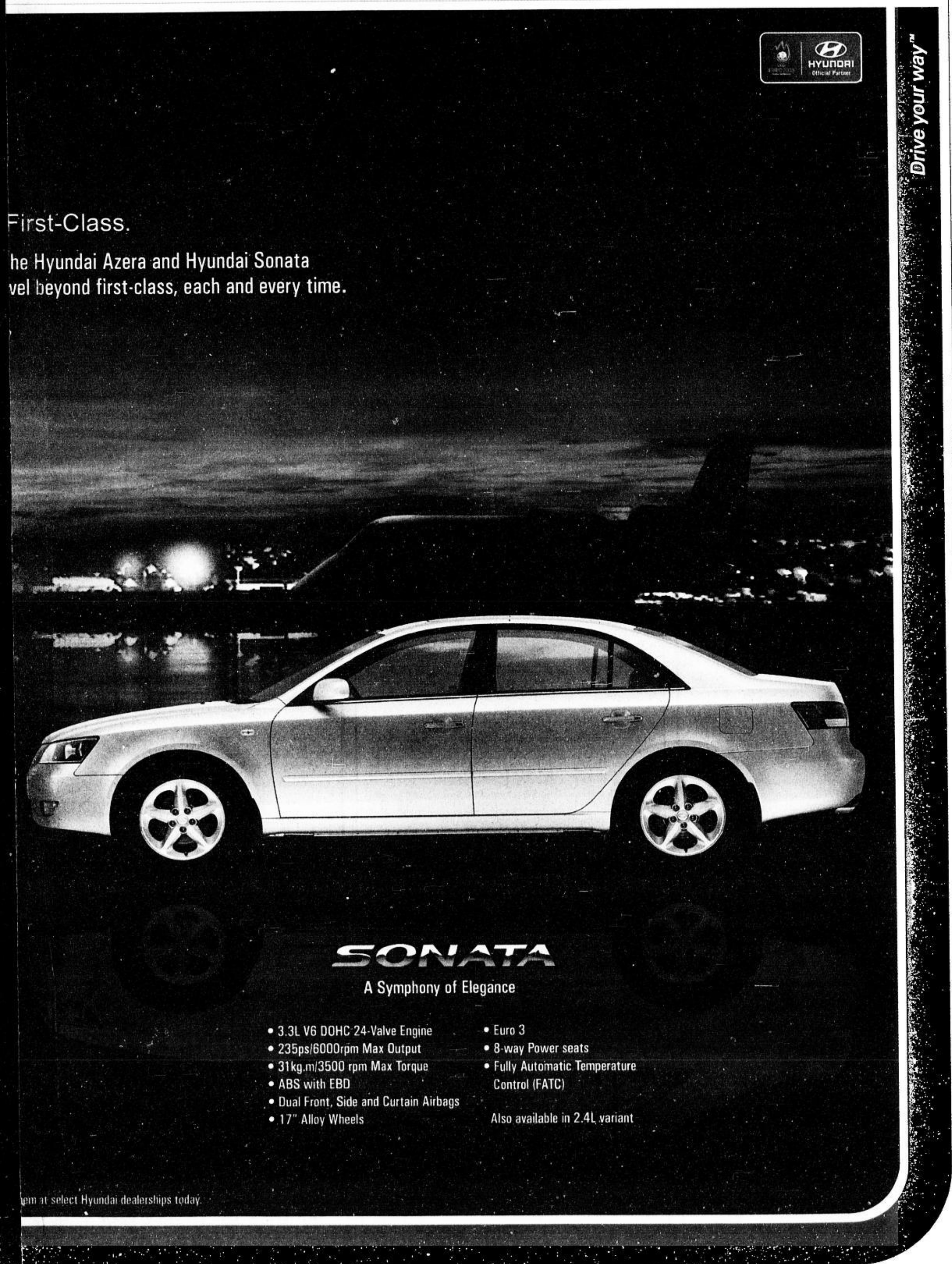
The Sonata 3.3 GLS is powered by a 3.3-liter V6 engine with Continuous Variable Valve Timing that generates 235 ps at 6,000 rpm and 31 Kilogram-meter of torque at 3,500 rpm.

The 2.4 GLS is powered by a 2.4-liter in-line 4 engine with CVVT that packs 161 ps at 5,800 rpm and 22.3 Kilogram-meter of torque at 4,250 rpm. The V6 only comes with a Gate type H-matic 5-speed automatic transmission. The 2.4 GLS comes with a 4-speed Gate type H-matic.

The climate within the cabin is controlled by fully automatic air conditioner with Air Quality System featuring air filter and flush type air vent. Ergonomic design and intelligently positioned driver controls put everything well within sight and reach. This is complemented by a driver's seat with eight-way power adjustment.

Aside from great styling and performance, the The Sonata is equipped with standard safety features, including state-of-art technologies. These include dual front airbags (plus side and curtain airbags in the 3.3 GLS), Anti-Lock Brake System with Electronic Brake Force Distribution, high mount stop lamps, rear child safety door locks, keyless entry with alarm, and trunk emergency escape system.

ADVT



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ag - (077) 781-8881, (077) 781-8698
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- Hyundai Naga City - (054) 811-6144, (054) 811-6119
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FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

"Philippine National Committee on Large Dams (PNCOLD) 2007 Technical Convention/Workshop"

The Philippine National Committee on Large Dams (PNCOLD) in association with the Philippine Waterworks Association Inc. (PWWA) hereby announces the 2007 Technical Convention/Workshop to be held on November 27 and 28, 2007 at NPC Fiesta Hall, NPC Building I, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

This event aims to disseminate information on dam operation and safety management and to bring together updates/recent development in engineering practices and studies on the technological, environmental, economical and social aspects of dam management. The technical convention/workshop will also include a visit to Angat Dam.

This year's convention theme is **"Role of the State, Private Companies and the Public in Philippine Dam Safety Management"**.

SCHEDULE:

October 31, 2007	Deadline for Submission of Technical Papers (Extended)
November 20, 2007	Deadline for Registration of Participants
November 27 & 28, 2007	Technical Convention Proper

ORGANIZED BY:

The Philippine National Committee on Large Dams (PNCOLD) represents the Philippines to the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD).

PNCOLD OFFICERS 2006-2008:

President	***Cyril C. Del Callar, NPC***
1st Vice President	***Lorenzo H. Jamora, MWSS***
2nd Vice President	***Marcelino V. Tugaoen, Jr., NIA***
Secretary	***Ryukichi Kawaguchi, SRPC***
Treasurer	***Raymond E. Cunningham, CE CWECI***
Adviser	***Jose U. Jovellanos, EDCOP***

APPLICATION:

Interested participants can apply or inquire to:
Mr. Romualdo Ma. T. Beltran / Mr. Manuel I. Monteverde
PNCOLD Secretariat, National Power Corporation
Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632) 921-3541 local 5653, Telefax (632) 924-5236
rtbeltran@napocor.gov.ph / odlaumor_ph@yahoo.com or mimonteverde@napocor.gov.ph / manny_monteverde@yahoo.com
and Mr. Medel C. De Jesus at misterdj@srpc.pangasinan.com

REGISTRATION FEE:

The registration fee which covers the convention kit, program proceeding, snacks, lunches, technical tour and attendance to technical sessions are as follows:

Php 500.00	Student
Php 750.00	Members
Php 1,000.00	Non-members

PAPER SUBMISSION:

Please submit technical papers through email to:
Ms. Jerese I. A. Lagapa, Chairperson, Program Committee
jialagapa@yahoo.com

LANGUAGE

The language of the technical convention will be in English. No translation to other languages is available.

TECHNICAL VISIT

Technical visit is at the **Angat Dam**, Norzagaray, Bulacan.

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Supply and Delivery of Various Corporate Give-Aways for Y2008

The **Pag-IBIG FUND**, through its Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS) intends to apply the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Various Corporate Give-Aways for Y2008. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Category	Qty.	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Cost of Bid Documents
I	29,380	Umbrella	PhP 3,466,840.00	PhP 3,000.00
II	19,999	Memo Jotter	PhP 2,599,870.00	PhP 2,500.00
III	47,588	Ballpen	PhP 1,046,936.00	PhP 1,500.00

The **Pag-IBIG FUND** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above-mentioned items. Delivery of the Goods is required on or before thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A.9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC-GS Secretariat, Room 704, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting October 15, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-GS Secretariat, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting October 15, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of the specified cost of Bidding Documents. The method of payment will be in the form of cash or manager's/cashiers check payable to Pag-IBIG FUND. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **Pag-IBIG Fund** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at the Arnel Taduran Hall, Room 602, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on the following schedule:

Category	Qty.	Item Description	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Opening
I	29,380	Umbrella	October 24, 2007 9:00 A.M.	Nov. 5, 2007 9:00 A.M.
II	19,999	Memo Jotter	October 24, 2007 2:00 P.M.	Nov. 5, 2007 2:00 P.M.
III	47,588	Ballpen	October 26, 2007 9:00 A.M.	Nov. 7, 2007 9:00 A.M.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to Room 704, Procurement Division, General Services Department, Pag-IBIG FUND, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before the Opening of Bids. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount equivalent to one percent (1%) of theABC in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check, or two and a half percent (2 1/2%) of the ABC, if in the form of GSIS surety bond. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held at the Arnel Taduran Hall, Room 602, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The value of the prospective bidder's largest contract, similar to the contract to be bid within the last five (5) years, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The **Pag-IBIG Fund** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Jose Maria M. Diaz or Ms. Vanessa L. Valderama at 8114262, 8945815 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE – GOODS AND SERVICES
By:
(Sgd.) WILFRIDO NACITO S. REYES
Head
General Services Department
Member, BAC-GS

(PDI--October 15, 2007)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM
MALACANANG, MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **Procurement of Broadcast Equipment**
Location : RTVM Bldg., Gate 6, Malacanang, Manila
Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 3,423,132.00
Delivery Period : 30 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Date	Time	Place
1)	Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 15-26, 2007	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
2)	Pre-Bidding Conference	Oct. 25, 2007	2:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
3)	Last Day of Submission and Opening of Bids	November 09, 2007	10:00 AM	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents including details of specification will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin. and Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel Nos. 734-5681/735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 700.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) Melba B. Aligaen
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 15 & 22, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SOUTHERN MINDANAO CAMPUS
Sto. Niño, Tugbok District, Davao City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL-SMC**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : A. COMPLETION OF MULTI-PURPOSE GYMNASIUM
B. CONTINUATION OF UNFINISHED PERIMETER FENCE
Location : PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SOUTHERN MINDANAO CAMPUS, BARANGAY STO. NIÑO, TUGBOK DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY
Brief Description : A. COMPLETION OF THE UNFINISHED WORKS IN THE MULTI-PURPOSE GYMNASIUM
B. INSTALLATION OF CHB, BARS AND RAILINGS
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : **A. P11,799,000.00**
B. 1,000,000.00
Contract Duration : A. 6 MONTHS B. 2 MONTHS

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicale to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOIs) including Application for Eligibility	October 16-25, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 16-25, 2007
3. Eligibility Check	October 26, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 30, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 8-15, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	November 16, 2007 – 9:00 AM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 29, 2007 – 9:00 AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at **Philippine Science High School-SMC, Sto. Niño, Tugbok District, Davao City**, upon their submission of an LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **PhP2,000.00**. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php10,000.00**.

The PSHS-SMC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MARIO A. GIGAYON**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 8 & 15, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
QUEZON CITY) SS.

AFFIDAVIT OF NON-RECEIPT

I, **LILIA S. MARQUEZ**, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Loans Department – Social Security System, of legal age, Filipino, with office address at the SSS Building, East Avenue, Quezon City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance to law, hereby depose and say;

1. That the following San Miguel Corporation stock certificates under the name of Social Security System were released to various brokers by the SMC Stock Transfer Office, as appearing in its records :

Class	Certificate No.	Issue date	No. of Shares
SMC-A	97424050	02-18-97	10,000
SMC-A	94186308	07-18-94	5,000
SMC-A	94183689	07-11-94	5,000
SMC-A	94105438	01-03-94	10,000
SMC-B	95083243	04-19-95	500

2. That the above certificates were issued during the normal course of SSS investment transactions;

3. That the SSS has never received the above described stock certificates;

4. That this affidavit is being executed to attest the truthfulness of the foregoing facts, to secure new certificates in replacement of the above-mentioned stock certificates and for whatever legal purpose it may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 4th day of June 2007, in Quezon City, Philippines.

LILIA S. MARQUEZ
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 4th day of June 2007 in Quezon City, affiant exhibiting CTC No. 21366422 issued on January 30, 2007 issued at Quezon City, Philippines.

Doc. No. 72 ;
Page No. 16 ;
Book no. V ;
Series of 2007.

MARITESS STO. TOMAS-ALONZO
Notary Public for Quezon City Until 31 Dec. 2007
Notarial Commission No. 008 (2006-2007)
PTR No. A-8362675/01/02/07Q.C.
Roll of Attorneys No. 33235
IBP No. 679847/01/02/07QC
TIN No. 118-438-241

(PDI - Oct. 15, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

TO : All Provincial / City / Municipal Treasurers; Heads of Department; Bureaus, Offices, Agencies and All Concerned
SUBJECT : Lost Accountable Form # 51 (Official Receipt) bearing Serial Numbers 7181351 – 7181400

This is to inform all the above concerned that 50 pcs. AF # 51 of the Municipal Treasurer's Office of Polangui, Albay bearing Serial Numbers 7181351 – 7181400 was requisitioned by Mr. Romer B. Baldemoro, Staff of Municipal Treasurer's Office last September 28, 2007 were found lost Since October 1, 2007.

Said receipts were already declared void and cannot be honored in any transactions representing LGU-Polangui, Albay and any other government entities.

This notice has been given to deter any possible fraudulent use of the above-mentioned Official Receipts.

(Sgd.) ANNA B. ROBRIGADO
Municipal Treasurer

(PDI - October 15, 2007)

NOTICE

Reward shall be given to any person who will give information leading to the arrest and apprehension of **DR. BENIGNO A. AGBAYANI, JR., M.D. FPOA**, formerly of Healthway Medical Clinic and Manila Doctor's Hospital.

A warrant of arrest has been issued against the above accused in "People of the Philippines vs. Dr. Benigno A. Agbayani, Jr." by the Metropolitan Trial Court of Manila, Branch 26.

Please contact Joseph – 09165337350.

(PDI–Oct. 13 & 15, 2007)

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

"In God and in our Blessed Mother we know that you and Papa – Lolo Jose are always close to us."

TERESA C. ARGÜELLES

October 15, 1907 – August 3, 1979

WE LOVE YOU MAMA – LOLA!

Remembering you on your 100th birthday

JOSE and **TERESITA EVANGELISTA** and children **Dr. Teresita Argüelles; Dr. Ma. Josefina** and **Engr. Ronnie Gool** and children **Rachel, Reuben, Ralph, Ruth, Raymond; Atty. Antoniette; Joselito** and **Rachel Dimaculangan** and children **Rafael, Miguel** and **Gabriel; Ma. Zarah Charisma**

ARCHBISHOP RAMON C. ARGÜELLES

ELSIE and **PABLING RABAGO** and children **Bong** and **Riza Mendoza: Cheska; Sr. Ma. Lisette, MGES; Charina** and **Rogelio Gondollas: Mariel Therese, Marinelli Gline, Paolo Don; Joseph Rensis** and **Marian de Castro: Ashley Ysabel, Pia Maren**

BABY and **JOEY SORIANO** and children **Josephine Marie, Jeanette Michelle** and **Kristine**

...and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
-2 Peter 1:11

Dra. Pacita Ramos Reyes

November 12, 1925 - October 14, 2007

Our beloved Mother has peacefully joined the Lord and our dear Papa Raul on October 14, 2007 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved family, relatives and friends request pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Marikina. Mass will be offered in the evenings at 7:00 p.m. until Wednesday night, October 17, 2007.

"In a country which has a vast unemployment rate, my vision is to offer equal opportunities for Filipinos by providing respectable jobs to all levels in society. I believe in transparency, commitment to excellence and long term-partnership as building blocks of a successful business. People are our assets and I take great pride in helping people grow to their full potential."

- Brendan J. Whyte

In Loving Memory

on the 6th month anniversary of the death of

Brendan J. Whyte

Founding Chairman, Q2 HR Solutions

Today, 15 October 2007, we honour our beloved Chairman on the 6th month anniversary of his death. His devoted wife Trixie and their loving children, Joshua, Keeva and Tara request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul. We thank everyone who has continually showered the family with their prayers, thoughts and kindness. The support of relatives, friends, business associates and clients has been a constant source of strength and inspiration.

Let us all uphold Brendan's noble vision by continuing to create opportunities for all.

Q2 HR SOLUTIONS

Q2 HR Solutions provides recruitment and HR services through its 4 distinct divisions.

Q Executive Search — A Division of Q2 HR Solutions

3i — A Division of Q2 HR Solutions

DEATH NOTICE

ROBERTO P. PAYONGAYONG
February 1, 1956 - October 11, 2007

Died Peacefully in the Grace of Our Lord at the age of 51.

His remains lie in state at the St. Pancratius Parish Church, La Loma Compound, Caloocan City.

Interment will be on October 17, Wednesday at the St. Pancratius Parish Church, La Loma Compound, Caloocan City after the 9:00 am Mass at St. Pancratius Church.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

TISHA

INFINITELY LOVED AND REMEMBERED
(14 August 1957 – 15 October 1994)

HOLY MASSES FOR **TISHA** WILL BE OFFERED TODAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007. AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL *Pasig City*	5:00 AM
SACRED HEART PARISH CHURCH *Kamuning, Q.C.*	5:15 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH *Lantana St., Q.C.*	5:30 AM
ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT OF PERPETUAL ADORATION *M. Hemady cor. 11th St., New Manila, Q.C.*	6:00 AM
SANTISIMO ROSARIO PARISH CHURCH *UST, España, Manila*	6:15 AM
ST. JUDE SHRINE *J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila*	6:30 AM
NAT'L SHRINE OF ST. MICHAEL AND THE ARCHANGELS *Solano St., San Miguel, Manila*	7:00 AM
STO. NIÑO PARISH CHURCH *Tondo, Manila*	7:00 AM
SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH *Quezon City*	8:00 AM
BASILICA OF THE BLACK NAZARENE *Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila*	5:00 AM; 5:00 PM; 12:00 NN
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH *Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila*	6:00 PM
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SHRINE *New Manila, Q.C.*	6:00 PM
SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH *Plaza Del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila*	6:00 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE *Greenhills, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila*	6:15 PM

"In my father's house are many rooms; I am going there to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you with Me that you may also be where I am" John 14:2 – 3

ATTY. PEDRO ENCOMIENDA DELA CRUZ
(Retired Court of Appeals and Supreme Court Lawyer)
who peacefully joined his Creator on the 13th of October, 2007 at the age of 82.

His bereaved children: **Cynthia, Mary Ann, Rowena, Bernadette, Manuel, Francisco** and **Rosalinda; sons-in-law Rey** and **Oliver; daughter-in-law Jean; grandchildren: Peter John, Cheska, Eli** and **Bench; brother Peping,** and all his relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the mortuary of The Ascension of Our Lord Parish, Lagro Subd., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at Serenity Memorial Park, Caloocan City.

More CLASSIFIED ADS on pages...

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PDI Kalaw branch has been transferred to:

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525-7023 (Classified)

People, Events & Products

Boosting your child's immunity

IF ALL THE MOTHERS IN THE WORLD HAD their way, they would watch over their children 24-7. A mother's natural instinct to nurture and protect her child from harm makes it possible for kids to grow and lead happy and healthy lives. But many moms have busy schedules and other roles and responsibilities, that's why they provide all the necessary safeguards to defend their kids from diseases, accidents and other unfortunate circumstances that may happen in the child's environment.

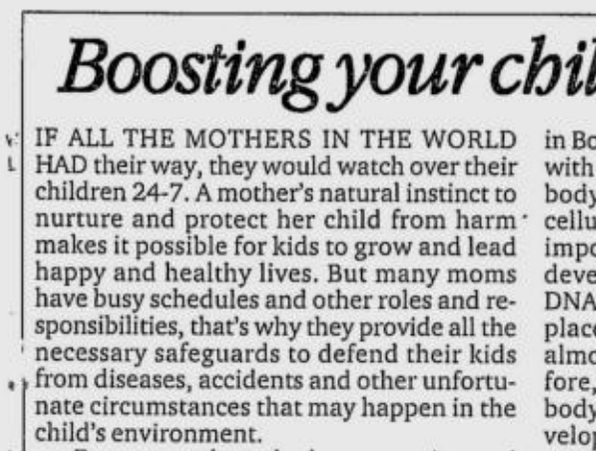
For any mother who has a growing and active child one year or above, some of the most urgent matters of concern would be proper nutrition and how to equip their child's body against sicknesses. Moms want to be sure that their small children have the necessary defenses to fend off viruses and bacteria, especially during the toddler years when children learn to explore their surroundings and start to engage in more physical activities.

One such safeguard may now be found in Bonakid growing up milk, now enhanced with nucleotides. The building blocks of the body's DNA and RNA that function in all cellular processes, nucleotides plays an all-important role in children's growth and development. Nucleotides are needed by DNA and RNA molecules to repair or replace cells of all kinds and are involved in almost all activities of the cells and therefore, the body. Without nucleotides, the body's requirements to live, grow and develop cannot be met, making the body susceptible to infections and rendering it powerless from recovering from cell damage.

This is why nucleotides are very effective in helping boost the child's immune system. Researches have shown that nucleotides help in the proliferation of immune cells in the body, thus making the body free from sicknesses. It also encourages the proliferation of good bacteria called bifidobacteria, which helps prevent diarrhea, a common problem among children of this age group.

PLDT SUPPORTS PRA EXPO

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) recently signed a memorandum of agreement in support of the 16th National Retailers Conference & Stores Asia Expo (16th NRCE) 2007 to be held August 15–17 at EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Shown here after the contract signing rites are, from left: Manuel Siggaoat, Vice-Chairman, Finance, PRA and Chairman, Manel's Leather; Jorge Mendiola, President, PRA and SVP, Operations,SM Shoemart; Renato Castañeda, Head, Corporate Sales Business, PLDT; and Mars Chua, Chairman, PRA and President, Sportshouse Int'l Leisure. Considered as the most important event of the Philippine retail industry for the year, PRA will congregate more than 600 retail owners, affiliated industry suppliers and top business executives to serve as the avenue for productive networking and present the latest developments and challenges in the retail industry. PLDT will feature the latest ICT tools, solutions and service offerings that will further enhance their business operations amidst a fast-changing and competitive global retail market.



CREATING A CORPORATE SOCIAL VISION

At the recently concluded Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Expo of the League of Corporate Foundations, Ayala chairman and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala emphasized the need for CSR to remain a vital presence in the business community and the importance of building alliances with other sectors for social development.

EPLDT PARTICIPATES IN 2ND CIO ASSEMBLY

ePLDT recently participated in the second general membership assembly meeting of the Chief Information Officers Forum, Inc (CIOF), an organization composed of incumbent and former CIOs from various government agencies. Photo shows ePLDT Pre-Sales Support Engineer Andrew Smith, center, receiving a plaque of appreciation from Clarito L. Magsino, First Vice President and CIO of DCI, and Vice President of CIOF, left, and Lilia Guillermo, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and President of CIOF. As part of the briefing, Smith gave a short yet informative presentation on converged connectivity, as demonstrated by ePLDT's latest service called Unified Contact Center Plus. The briefing centered on the present initiatives of the eGovernance Center of Excellence, conceived by the CIO Forum in partnership with ePLDT and several leading IT companies. The event was one of the many activities undertaken by the CIOF to advocate and promote the strategic use of IT as an effective partner in governance.

OFWs now more investment savvy

Remitters said to consider trade, property more than family obligations

By Doris C. Dumlao

FILIPINO WORKERS ABROAD ARE now paying more attention to investment opportunities in the home country rather than the fulfillment of their family obligations, a new Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas study suggested.

The BSP study, titled "Philippine Overseas Workers and Migrants' Remittances: The Dutch Disease Question and the Cyclicality Issue," revealed that domestic economic prospects and the peso-dollar movement now influence overseas Filipino workers' decision whether to send money to their families back home.

"Remitters are [also] influenced by investment opportunities even more so than altruistic considerations," the study said.

This development, in turn, suggests that remittances may no longer flow in abundance, whether in good times or bad.

"Policymakers should therefore not be drawn into complacency that remittances can comfortably help the economy weather economic downturns," the study said. "There is no substitute for prudent macroeconomic policies."

The study also indicates that the overseas Filipino community has become an important segment to tap as investors into the domestic economy.

The BSP study found evidence that remittances in the country were "procyclical"—tending to rise when economic activity improved, and decline when economic conditions of the previous quarter weakened.

This nature of remittances is seen to be driven in part by exchange rate movements, since overseas Filipinos' decision to send money is being influenced by exchange rate movements.

According to the paper, a strengthening economy can lead to a peso appreciation because remitters are expected to send more dollars back home. The reverse may also be expected as a result of a weakening economy—a peso depreciation may lead to smaller amount of dollar remittances.

But while the BSP research pointed out the link between remittance appetite and investment prospects, it found no compelling evidence that the Philippines had acquired the so-called "Dutch disease."

The disease refers to the loss of a country's export competitiveness arising from over-reliance on a natural resource. This was what happened to the Netherlands in the 1960s, following the discovery of large natural gas deposits. It also refer to any situation in which capital inflows cause real exchange rate appreciation that leads to a deterioration in a country's export performance.

The BSP study said the peso had not appreciated significantly out of line with respect to its equilibrium value despite strong remittances but it said that the export of manufactured goods as a percentage of domestic output remained steady.

The BSP study concluded that the country could avoid the Dutch disease, saying that the challenge was not so much on the foreign exchange coming in, but in directing these private inflows toward more productive activities.

"While these are private transfers, the government can ensure that the policy environment is conducive to the use of these remittances for investment in productive activities, such as entrepreneurial endeavors and investment in better healthcare, education and housing for the families of remitters," it said.

If there are concerns that the infusion of money from abroad could create inflationary pressures, the study said the BSP should be ready to undertake monetary policy actions.

It said the government too can actively seek to invest in activities that would boost productivity, lower the cost of doing business, diversify exports, as well as retrain and retool workers in lagging export industries.

"These measures will ultimately make the country less dependent on remittances and less vulnerable to external shocks ... [even] during times when remittance flows become less plentiful," the study said.

Money sent home by overseas Filipinos has grown at a compounded annual rate of 11 percent in the last 10 years, and comprised about 10 percent of total economic output, supporting the country's robust private consumption.

NCC dismisses int'l report on worsening RP business clime

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONAL COMpetitiveness Council has downplayed the results of an international study that detailed the worsening business environment in the country, adding the data used are now dated.

According to the World Bank's Doing Business Report released in September, the Philippines slid 12 notches to 133rd rank out of 178 countries and territories surveyed.

Cesar B. Bautista, NCC co-chair representing the private sector, said in an interview the council has been addressing factors concerning the country's competitiveness as a place to do business in.

Bautista said the effects of the initiative are not reflected in the World Bank report.

"The impact of NCC's efforts should be felt by now and these should be evident in the next round of (surveys)," he said.

The NCC expected the country to be in the middle third of the ranking, although he said the extent of the Philippines' improvement depended on the support of various groups in the private sector, as well as the different government agencies concerned, Bautista said.

The WB report showed that the Philippines needed to ease the process of starting a business here, of registering a property, and access to credit.

The NCC has formed six groups to draw up action plans and push initiatives focusing on human resources; management expertise in specific public offices; financing to micro, small and medium enterprises; reduction of transaction costs and improved transaction flows; the upgrade of infrastructure, particularly in transportation; and reduction of costs and securing supplies of electricity.

Bautista, a former trade secretary, said the council was aggressively pursuing initiatives and reforms that it had taken up to immediately improve and ease the process of doing business in the country.

One such initiative is that of the Management Association of the Philippines, which aims to reduce the number of days for securing business licenses in 18 major cities.

"The current (average is) 48 days, and the target is to pare this down to 15 days," he said. "We are relying on ... the Internet to achieve fast results."

Also, Bautista said, the NCC is focusing on issues related to human resources in improving competitiveness.

"It is important to achieve a match between the available skills and those that the industries need," he said.

As for energy costs, which account for a substantial part of business expenses, Bautista said the NCC has helped reduce power spending for projects registered with the of Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

ATO, LRA top list of contributors to gov't coffers

WHICH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONtributed most to the nation's coffers?

Based on the latest report of the Department of Finance, the top five contributors are the Air Transportation Office, Land Registration Authority, National Telecommunications Commission, Land Transportation Office and Bureau of Immigration.

Completing the top 10 are the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Foreign Affairs, Securities and Exchange Commission, Professional Regulation Commission, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board and National Bureau of Investigation.

The ranking was based on fees and charges collected from 2001 to 2006.

Based on the report, ATO has contributed an average of P2 billion each year, accounting for P12.12 billion during the six-year period.

The Air Transportation Office inspects and registers all aircraft owned and operated in the Philippines, as well as all existing air facilities.

It operates and maintains national airports, air navigation and similar facilities, and prescribes charges pertinent to the operation of public air utility facilities and services.

The LRA has raised P10.45 billion during the same period, pumping in an average of P1.74 billion each year.

The NTC closely followed with P10.2 billion six-year contribution equivalent to an annual average of P1.7 billion.

The LTO collected P9 billion over the same period with an annual average of P1.51 billion, while the Bureau of Immigration raised P1.1 billion each year for a total contribution of P6.65 billion.

The rest of the pack each contributed less than P1 billion a year. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Make way for money-making catfish

By Amy R. Remo and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND Aquatic Resources will start to vigorously promote the Pangasius, a freshwater species of catfish, dubbed as the "next big thing" in the local aquaculture industry.

According to Dr. Remedios Ongtangco, Central Luzon director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, this high-value fish commodity is seen as "the emerging darling of freshwater aquaculture."

Vitarich Corp. chair and president Rogelio Sarmiento said in a statement that the "entry of the Pangasius to our line of aqua products for export will strengthen our foothold in the global aquaculture market."

"Pangasius is expected to open new business opportunities in both local and export markets, similar to that of the bangus and tilapia," Sarmiento added.

BFAR said the Pangasius belongs to the family Pangasiidae with more than 20 different species. It is also called shark catfish, because of its sharp dorsal fins, silver striped catfish, Siamese shark, sutchi catfish or swai catfish, is endemic on the Vietnam side of the Mekong River.

Known for its enormous size, the adult Pangasius can reach 130 cm or 4 feet in length and can weigh up to 44 kilos or 97 lbs.

BFAR introduced the Pangasius in the country in 1981.

Already, a couple in Floridablanca, Pampanga, have taken up the challenge to raise and promote this variety of catfish.

Marlon and Remedios Coronel are trying to culture Pangasius in their part of the world.

Remedios, 46, is humbled at being given the trust to do the trial culture.

"*Agyu mi siguro* (Perhaps we can do it)," she said.

Marlon and Remedios Coronel were Gawad Saka awardees in Central Luzon in 1999 for tilapia growing.

Starting with just two ponds in 1998, they now operate eight ponds in their 10-hectare farm.

They have a 7,000-square-meter pond, which the BFAR will stock with 35,000 Pangasius fingerlings from the Bluebay Aqua Farm. Vitarich will supply the feeds in this technology demonstration farm.

The Coronels said they agreed to embark on the project to culture this variety of catfish not only to personally gain but to help other fish growers as well.

The collaboration is expected to increase production of Central Luzon's P17.37-billion aquaculture industry, or the country's P55.73-billion aquaculture sector, Ongtangco said.

The region contributes 31 percent to total national production.

"This catfish was introduced in the Philippines as an ornamental fish, commonly known as freshwater hammerhead shark," Ongtangco said. "But it is a culture species and food fish export of countries like Vietnam and Thailand."

In 2005, Vietnam began producing fillets from Pangasius.

As these happened, Vitarich Corp. developed local feeds for this species.

Ongtangco says the Pangasius is "easy to grow within six months and thus give big potentials to the freshwater culture sector."

"The feed conversion ratio is very efficient," she said. "A kilogram of feeds can raise 1.2 kg of meat. That's high compared to tilapia and bangus that take two kilos of feed to produce a kilo of meat."

A BFAR study showed that growing 10,000 fingerlings at P2.50 each in a 2,000-square-meter of pond can cost P342,245.75, inclusive of feeds, lime, diesel, electricity, labor and miscellaneous expenses.

With a harvest of 8,000 kilograms at a farm gate of P60 per kg, the net income could reach P137,754.25 after gross sales of P480,000.

BPO sector seen to rival OFW remittances by 2010

From page B1

year," said Oscar Sañez, CEO of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP).

It is an ambitious goal for an industry that made only $3.4 billion in revenues last year.

But unlike remittances from abroad, profiting from the BPO boom doesn't entail sending millions of Filipinos to work and live abroad—all of eight million, and rising, as of the last count.

According to Sañez, this lofty target could be achieved with only a million Filipinos employed in contact centers and other outsourcing operations.

"Think of the BPO industry as another leg that supports the Philippine economy," he said.

And while call centers have been the rage over the last couple of years, BPAP has no illusions that the Philippines' share of the global pie remains small.

As part of its goal to sustain the industry's growth momentum, the group now wants to capture as much as 10 percent of the global outsourcing market—worth $450 billion as of last count—in less than three years.

According to Sañez, the Philippines now holds only a 5-percent share of the world BPO market, mainly in the low value-added sector of voice services or call centers.

Standing in the country's way is BPO behemoth India, which currently has a stranglehold on the market with a 40-percent share.

India, Sañez said, was the country that the Philippines should try to emulate—and beat.

To this end, BPAP has recently completed a roadmap designed to help the industry achieve this goal.

Called Roadmap 2010, it is an implementation strategy for "breakthrough growth" in the outsourcing industry in the country. It is the industry's view meant to bring together the stakeholders of the industry from the BPO firms, government, media and education.

Developed with the help of consultancy firm McKinsey & Co., Sañez said it aims to convey a sense of urgency to persuade key audiences that the industry should seize present opportunities for growth.

More importantly, it will also keep the country from falling behind its neighbors who are also after a piece of the BPO pie.

To put the roadmap into action, BPAP identified three key elements which need to come into play: 1) talent development, 2) next-wave cities and 3) the Philippine business environment.

"The talent working group coordinates with educational institutions and human resource managers to help sustain the number of skilled workers for the industry," Sañez said.

BPAP wants the number of people employed in BPOs to reach a million in 2010 compared to the present level of 250,000.

Of the present number, 40 percent are based in Metro Manila.

The industry is still predominately call center-driven, but locators have begun looking at higher-value services such as human resource management and finance, accounting, equity research and financial analysis.

Due to the industry's expansion, investors need more office.

"The BPO industry is not just Manila," Sañez said. "Having 90 percent of locators here increases the pressure on recruitment and space."

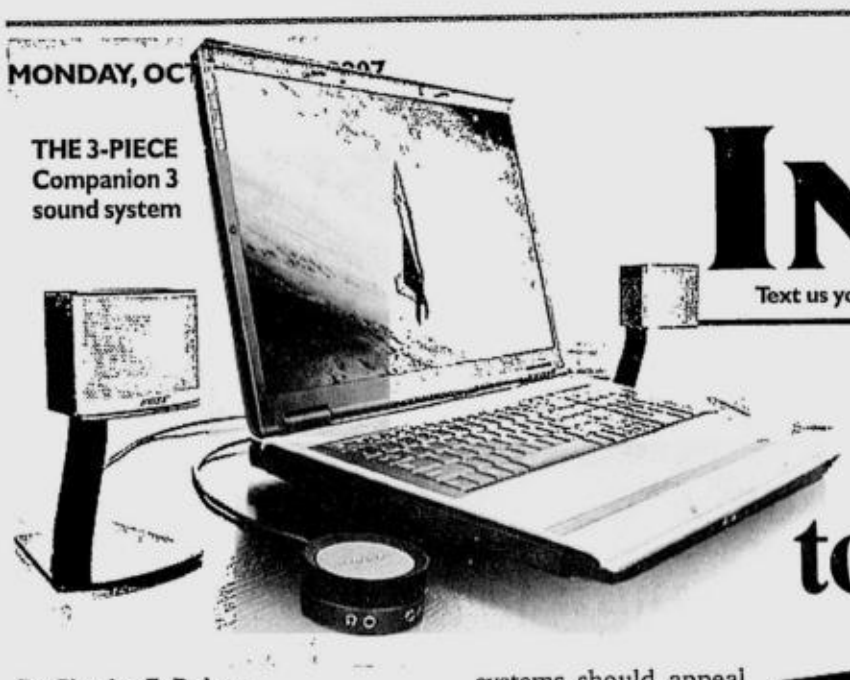
"Quality graduates are harder to come by and office rental rates have increased by 25 percent over the last two years," he added. "So we created a working group tasked to identify and help develop the next BPO hubs."

The third thrust in this three-pronged approach is the struggle to improve the local business climate.

A separate working group has been tasked to coordinate with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to make it easier to do business in the country and to ensure continuity of existing incentives.

"The pie is big and it continues to grow," Sañez said, describing the potential benefits of the BPO industry for the country. "But we have to move fast because we started late."

If the plan is successful, the BPAP chief said the country would be a strong contender against what he called "India Inc." If it fails, the country would waste another golden opportunity to convert its strengths into economic benefits.



Speakers that get you closer to a 5.1 experience

By Charles E. Buban

NO MATTER HOW EXCELLENT the built-in speakers of your desktop or laptop may be, there will always come a time when you will require an external sound source just to get the most out of the movie, music, or game you are enjoying.

Ideally, you would opt for a 5.1 surround sound system. This means you have five sound sources: two in front (left and right), another two at the left and right rear of the listener and a sub-woofer.

But apart from being expensive and a bit overbearing, it won't be appropriate for your computer that is usually located in a confined space like your workstation in the office or home.

But of course, there are alternatives like the two Bose multimedia speaker systems that this writer recently tested courtesy of Eleksis Corp., exclusive distributors of Bose audio and video products in the country.

Closer to experiencing 5.1

"Bose's Companion 5 and the second generation Companion 3 let you get closer to experiencing 5.1 surround sound experience using just three sound sources. These speaker systems should appeal to those who watch movies and play games in a home or office environment," explained Eleksis Corp. president Wilson So.

Priced at P26,500, the Companion 5 is a 2.1 speaker system, which means the package comes with two satellite speakers (each comes mounted on a removable stand) and one subwoofer (called Acoustimass module) that could be concealed on the floor or behind a cabinet.

Apart from the two speakers, there's also another small hockey puck-like device that should be in your table.

This is the control pod where the speaker volume control, single-touch mute, headphone jack and an input for the MP3 player is located.

BOSE'S Companion 5 is engineered to deliver the excitement of surround sound without the clutter of five speakers.

Sounded awesome

Although one would be discouraged by the price tag, the Companion 5 sounded awesome as the system is able to make you believe you are surrounded with several sound sources.

The key to the Companion 5's wide-open sound is Bose's TrueSpace signal processing circuitry.

"This technology creates a broad soundstage that extend beyond the desktop speakers whether you've set them next to your monitor or placed them further apart," So said. "While the tiny speakers handle the upper frequencies, the Acoustimass module adds impressive lows. Together they give you warm, lifelike sound that makes your gaming, musical and movie watching experience truly great."

Smaller package

Lest we forget, there's another more affordable package on the Companion series. At P16,500, Bose's Companion 3 almost looks like its high-end cousin with its two satellite speakers (also featuring removable stand), the hockey puck-like control device as well as the concealable subwoofer.

Although the Companion 3 is much smaller, it still packs great bass crystal clear highs, especially when the Eleksis staff inserted a CD that played a guitar solo.

Both Companion models have speakers that are magnetically shielded so that they won't cause monitor interference.

"Just like its high-end counterpart, the Companion 3 was designed to be simple to use, and user friendly. There are no adaptors needed or complicated wiring. Just simple USB connections and you're ready for a more thrilling and lifelike sound," So assured.

Indeed, the two latest multimedia speaker systems from Bose should rank high on anyone's shopping list. These sleek and compact speakers fit easily in their surroundings to save useful desk space—plus, they look great on your table.

Playing online games sans PC connection

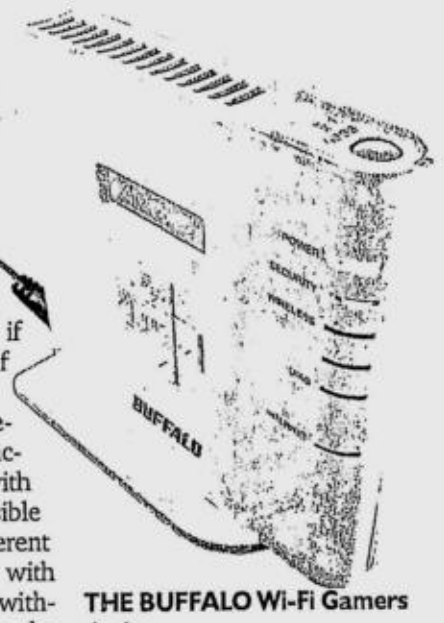
By Raquel P. Gomez

IF THE INTERNET HAS made the world a smaller community without borders, then wireless technology, or Wi-Fi, has made this community accessible literally anytime, anywhere—even if you're on a beach or on top of a mountain.

Now, if two people on remote parts of the world can access the Internet wirelessly with their portable PCs, is it possible for two online gamers in different corners of the globe to play with each other wirelessly even without using a PC to connect to the Internet?

With today's mind-boggling technologies, this scenario is now a reality.

Buffalo Technologies, a Japan based firm that designs and develops wireless network products and storage solutions, has come out with a device that allows cyber gamers to enjoy games online and wirelessly even without the use of a PC for the Internet connection.



THE BUFFALO Wi-Fi Gamers device

Buffalo Wi-Fi Gamers (WCA-G) is a gaming-centric device that supports popular gaming consoles such as Nintendo Wii, DS, DS Lite, Sony PSP and Playstation 3. It allows users of these gaming consoles access online games with just the push of a button.

MORIKAZU Sano

Sitting at the heart of the device is Buffalo's patented system called the AirStation One-Touch Secure System (AOSS), a feature that provides instant connection to the Internet and does more, like remembering all security settings from the game console website and allowing several devices to link wirelessly and securely with minimal user setup.

"The Buffalo Wi-Fi Gamers enhances online and wireless gaming experiences by providing Internet connection without requiring the use of a PC," says Morikazu Sano, senior vice president of global sales of Buffalo. "It is the only gaming access point on the market that doesn't have a complicated wireless setup."

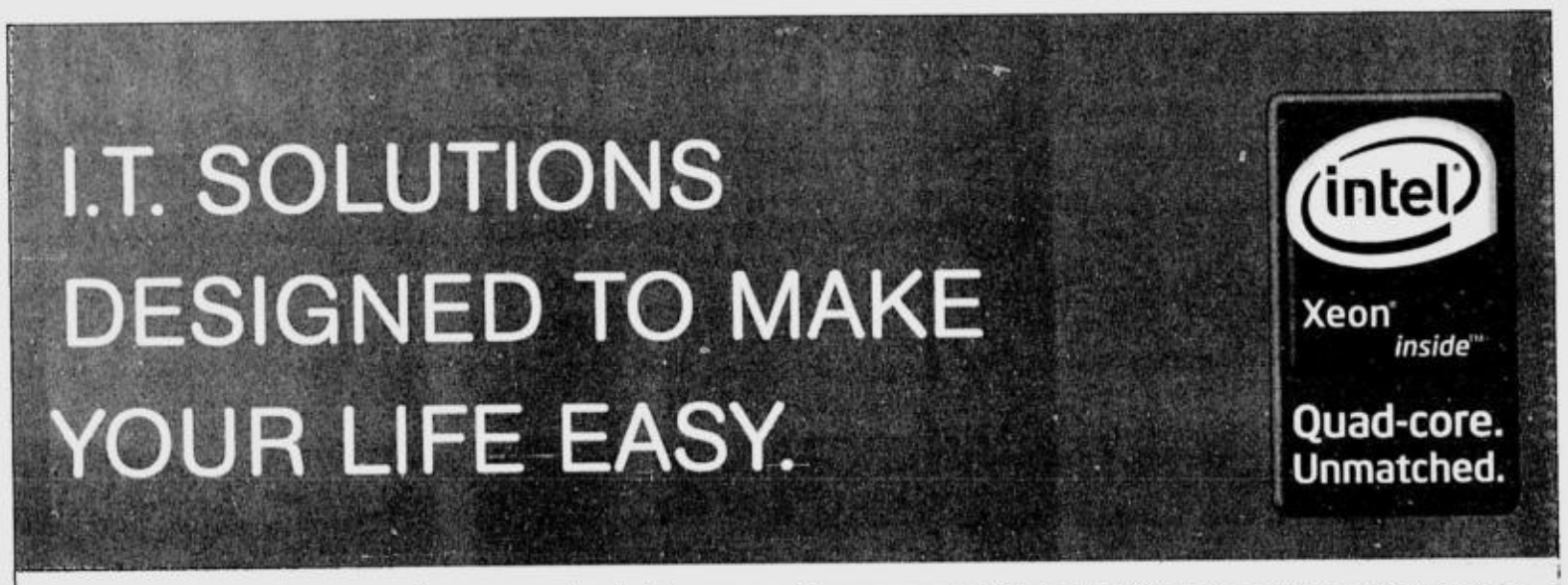
He adds that the advantage of the device is that it eliminates the steps for establishing a secure wireless connection and it doesn't require a security key after the first entry online, thus allowing users to start playing online games immediately.

But how does it really work? The device, which is about the size of a deck of playing cards, plugs into an available port on an existing LAN. This is of course one's DSL connection, broadband connection or a Wi-Fi device connection (a wireless router).

Once connected, users can connect to the Internet by pressing the "AOSS button" on the device and on the gaming console screen (for example the screen of Nintendo Wii) and they can start playing secured online games.

So a child playing Nintendo Wii in the Philippines can play with another child using a Nintendo Wii console in the US. It's also possible for several children with the same game consoles in a neighborhood to play the same game even without leaving their rooms or backyards.

The Buffalo Wi-Fi Gamers can also manage the different levels of support security among the different gaming consoles, so setting up of multiple gaming devices is virtually hassle-free. The device also has an LCD monitor where you can see setup status, AOSS status, the wireless network and connection status. The recently launched device, which retails at about $69 to $79 in the US, will hit local stores in November.



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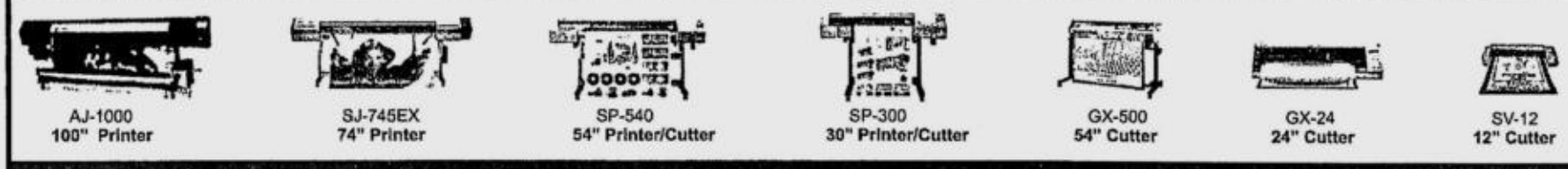

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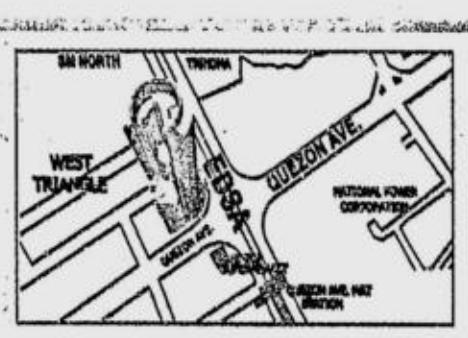

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First Gen hits gov't tax on natural gas

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-OWNED FIRST GEN CORP. IS urging the government to scrap the P1.46 per kilowatt-hour royalties slapped on natural gas as this can redound to a P1.46-per-kWh savings for industrial customers and a 50-centavos-per-kWh rate cut for all other consumers.

In a presentation to reporters last week, First Gen vice president Victor Santos said that while other countries in the region were subsidizing the use of indigenous fuels in power generation, the Philippines was going the other way—heavily taxing indigenous natural gas.

Compared with the 4 centavos per kWh that local coal producers had to pay in terms of royalties, he said users of natural gas had to shell out royalties worth as much as P1.46 per kWh.

The natural gas royalties, he said, was seven times more than the 20-centavos-per-kWh excise taxes that users of imported diesel had to pay and almost nine times the 17-centavos-per-kWh that users of imported bunker oil had to remit to the government.

"In Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia, domestically used natural gas is subsidized. Power cost from our own natural gas is rendered artificially expensive due to the high royalties to government," he said.

If these natural gas royalties could be scrapped altogether, First Gen president Federico Lopez said customers within the Manila Electric Co. franchise area could enjoy savings of between 50 centavos and P1.46 per kWh.

Meralco sources more than a third of its supply requirements from the 1,000-megawatt (MW) Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants that First Gen owns through subsidiary First Gas Power Corp.

Lopez said the government could choose to scrap the entire P1.46-per-kWh royalties, which would mean a yearly revenue loss of some $600 million, and bank on the additional revenues it could generate from higher taxes from industries.

"(The government) can give the entire P1.46 back to industries within the Meralco franchise area. This will have a higher (gross domestic product) effect and the government can also collect more in terms of (value-added tax), as industries will have more incentive to expand," he explained.

For all Meralco customers, he said scrapping the natural gas royalties could translate to savings of about 50 centavos per kWh, with the distribution utility sourcing more than a third of its requirements from gas-fired power plants.

"These royalties are discouraging the use of indigenous, clean fuels. It's a bad policy decision. The removal of royalties should have been done (a long time ago)," he said.

"If Presidential Decree No. 87, the source of the royalties, can be converted via new legislation, this can bring down the royalties or find a way to plow it back somehow," he added.

Galoc profit to fund future exploration

AUSTRALIA'S NIDO PETROLEUM LTD. IS allocating its share from the Galoc prospect in offshore Northwest Palawan to the development of other oil and gas prospects in areas covered by three service contracts.

In a disclosure to the Australian Stock Exchange, Nido deputy managing director Joanne Williams said the start of drilling on the Galoc prospect, covered by Service Contract 14C, was important in the "realization of Nido's strategy."

Galoc Production Co. (GPC), operator of SC 14C, last week started drilling Galoc 3, the first well within the petroleum block.

"This well, together with Galoc 4, targets 23.5 million barrels of reserves as certified by Gaffney, Cline and Associates. Nido's share of Galoc production will be approximately 4,000 barrels of oil per day commencing in the first quarter of 2008," Williams said.

"With an asset producing significant cash flow, the next focus in Nido's strategy is to develop and execute a significant exploration drilling campaign targeting big-hit potential. Galoc production will provide the means to mature and explore the world-class acreage offered by Nido's service contracts 54, 58 and 63 in the Northwest Palawan Basin," she added.

Nido Philippines president JV Emmanuel de Dios, a former undersecretary at the Department of Energy, said government support was instrumental in enabling Nido to start realizing returns on its investments here.

The resurgence of the petroleum industry in the country was likewise a significant development, spurred by what was currently happening at Galoc, he added.

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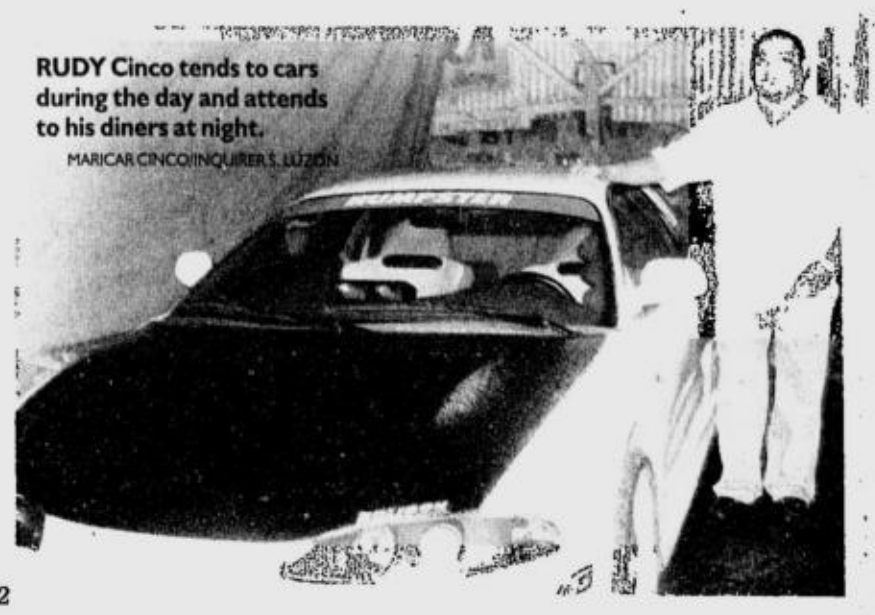

RUDY Cinco tends to cars during the day and attends to his diners at night.

MARICAR CINCO/INQUIRER S. LUZON

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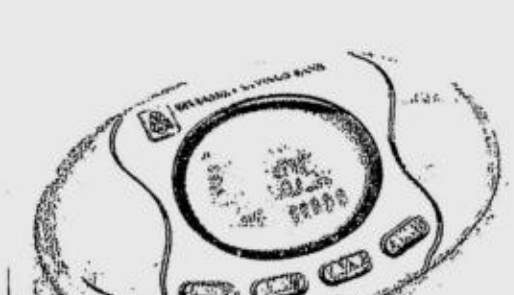

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Auto shop by day, resto-bar by night

Car lover earns double profits doing things a la 'Transformers'

By Maricar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—ORIGINALLY, Rudy Cinco, 34, had simply wanted a car wash center for himself. But in August, his business venture evolved to become an auto care shop by day and a restaurant-bar by night.

Cinco's passion for cars made him put up Mecono, derived from "*mekaniko*" (mechanic) and "*magkano*" (how much).

He remembers driving his first Nissan Sentra car when he was 14 years old, cutting back on his expenses to save up for maintenance. He even joined Mymitsuph Eclipse Worx, a car racing team, whose members are his regular customers.

In 2003, he partnered with his godfather, Bebot de Chavez, to put up Mecono as a car wash center. He eventually learned to run it on his own, expanding its services to exterior and interior auto detailing, glass detailing and air-conditioning repair.

Six mechanics work at the shop, which is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Customers average around 20 on weekdays, with some of them coming from Calamba City, Bicutan, Cavite and Las Piñas City.

"My priority is the quality of service," Cinco says. For instance, a car wash, which normally takes 20 to 30 minutes, takes an hour at Mecono to ensure that the vehicle comes out spotlessly clean.

At 6 p.m., another group of helpers set up the tables, roll down native blinds to wall up the front area and transform the shop into a restaurant. Its main menu of grilled chicken, barbecue and seafood matches the Bohemian lamps for a Boracay-themed restobar.

The restaurant serves until 1 a.m. It doubles as a function room for birthdays or meetings.

"It's really an all-day, all-night work," Cinco says.

MECONO restaurant and bar at night
PHOTOS BY MARICAR CINCO/ INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Born businessman

He considers himself a natural-born businessman even if he took a business management course in college. He remembers that when he was in Grade 6, he used to hop from one house to another in the neighborhood, selling eggs for an extra allowance.

When he went to college in Manila, he picked up passengers on his way to school for some earnings.

Although the nature of his businesses seemed to be in no way connected, Cinco said the idea was customer-driven. "I saw that the customers did not have a place to stay while waiting for their cars to be serviced," he explains. Before, he just put a beach umbrella shop to provide shade.

Cinco says the grilling station at his restaurant is a franchise of Chicken Republic, another business with a partner in Cavite.

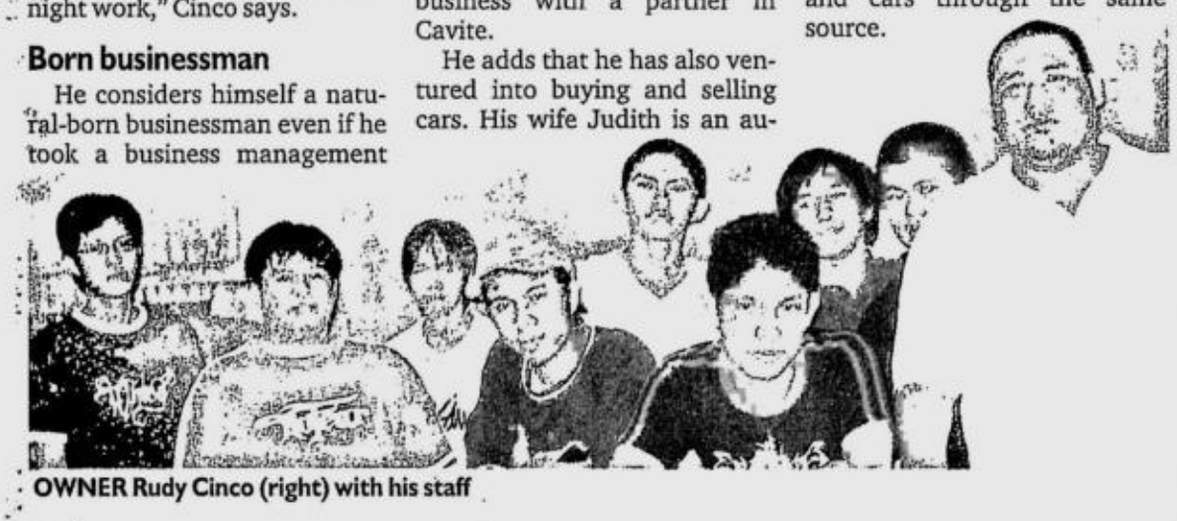
He adds that he has also ventured into buying and selling cars. His wife Judith is an authorized dealer of Claudia and Alexus Christy watches.

Not a bed of roses

"Not all businesses are a bed of roses," Cinco says, however. He recalls that in 2005, one of his cars displayed for sale at the shop was stolen. Two helpers had constantly advanced their salaries until they left without finishing their contracts, he says.

But the resulting big financial losses never hindered his maturity as a businessman. "It is through experience that we learn more," he says.

Mecono may be an upstart, but Cinco says it is growing. He opened the restaurant with capital coming from the shop and has invested in other properties and cars through the same source.



OWNER Rudy Cinco (right) with his staff

Two paths to anomalous government procurement

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Manuel A. Alcuaz, Jr.

THERE ARE TWO PATHS TO do an anomalous government procurement:

1. Zity-e it!
2. Use RA 9184 The Procurement Reform Law

The first approach we have seen in the recent NBN-ZTE case where government moved with great haste to have the contract signed with the President as a witness and then have the contract mysteriously disappear. If the cost to the Filipino people was not so huge one could have a big laugh at the comedy of errors that the Arroyo administration has committed in trying to alternately hide and justify the ZTE National Broadband Network deal.

In an earlier article, I stated that the government did not exercise good governance because it did not:

1. Explain why the government NBN is needed.
2. Did not define what was needed.
3. Did not go through a competitive process to determine who should be awarded the contract.

Raul V. Fabella and Emmanuel de Dios, economics professors at the University of the Philippines, have written a paper "Lacking a Backbone" where they convincingly argue that there is no need for the proposed government broadband backbone.

They pointed out that there already are two backbones with more than sufficient capacity. These are run by PLDT and Telephil (a consortium of other Telcos like Globe and smaller companies).

They also point out that due to the poor performance in the communications arena like the Barangay Telephone project and the old Bureau of Telecommunications' Government Telephone System which was noted for its inefficiency, the government had made it a policy to privatize operations that are better handled by the private sector.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has claimed that the project could result in savings of about P3 billion per year. This, however, has not been validated.

Furthermore, the professors point out that the government should look at savings from a national perspective. If it builds backbone overcapacity the whole country gets more inefficient and costs to consumers of communications services will rise.

If there really was a need for a third backbone and a government national broadband network, there should have been comprehensive marketing, economic and engineering studies to determine exactly what was needed. Such a study would normally take a few years and is usually funded by institutions like the World Bank, ADB, etc. These studies would be the basis for the preparation of a RFP (request for proposals).

Secretary Leandro Mendoza implicitly admitted that there was no design and engineering studies when he said that ZTE would design and build the system. He in effect entered into a $329-billion contract not knowing what ZTE would deliver.

AHI is frequently referred to as the other bidder. This is erroneous. One can't conduct a bid when there is no clear definition of the work to be done. Understandably many parties in this project are in a hurry to get their slice of the ZTE-NBN deal, after all the 2010 election is just two-and-a-half years away.

Now let me point out how the same corrupt results could be achieved by going through the motions of an honest bid under RA 9184, the so-called "Procurement Reform Law" that needs to be reformed.

RA 9184 provides that for the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, only bidders who meet the technical and documentary requirements shall be considered for financial evaluation.

The bidders who passed the initial requirements shall have their prices calculated and the bidder with the lowest calculated price will win the bid.

So RA 9184 could save the government billions of pesos, right? Wrong!

Section 36 of RA 9184 provides for a single calculated/rated and responsive bidder to get the award. RA 9184 differs from past procurement laws and rules because it mandates "pass or fail" criteria for evaluation instead of weighted scoring and it provides for a single bidder award, whereas in the past there was a requirement to have at least three eligible bidders.

How would Comelec Commissioner Benjamin Abalos be able to make ZTE win by following RA 9184?

Very easy. Remember the election automation scandal?

The Comelec imposed the following pass or fail criteria:

1. The voting machine should have been used in an election with at least 20 million voters.

This requirement eliminated almost all bidders. There are no elections with more than 20 million voters in the United States, Europe, Japan and even India. Mega Pacific qualified because its Korean supplier used the machines in the Korean presidential elections with more than 20 million voters. Another bidder qualified because it did the presidential elections in Brazil.

2. They also required that the machine should have been manufactured for at least 5 years.

This gave the Koreans who had old machines an edge. They did not have to compete with Japanese or European vendors with newer, faster, lower cost machines.

Mendoza could probably have learned a thing or two from the aborted Assault Rifle Bid in the Armed Forces.

The local partner of the Belgian FN rifle manufacturer almost won the "Assault Rifle" bid at about P500,000 per rifle.

The service commanders who favored lower-priced assault rifles were surprised that competing bidders with lower cost and better suited assault rifles were eliminated.

How was that done?

Someone in the headquarters Bid and Award Committee inserted an innocent looking requirement that:

The rifle should be both magazine and belt fed.

If the evaluation was done using weighted scoring, this requirement would not have fatal effects.

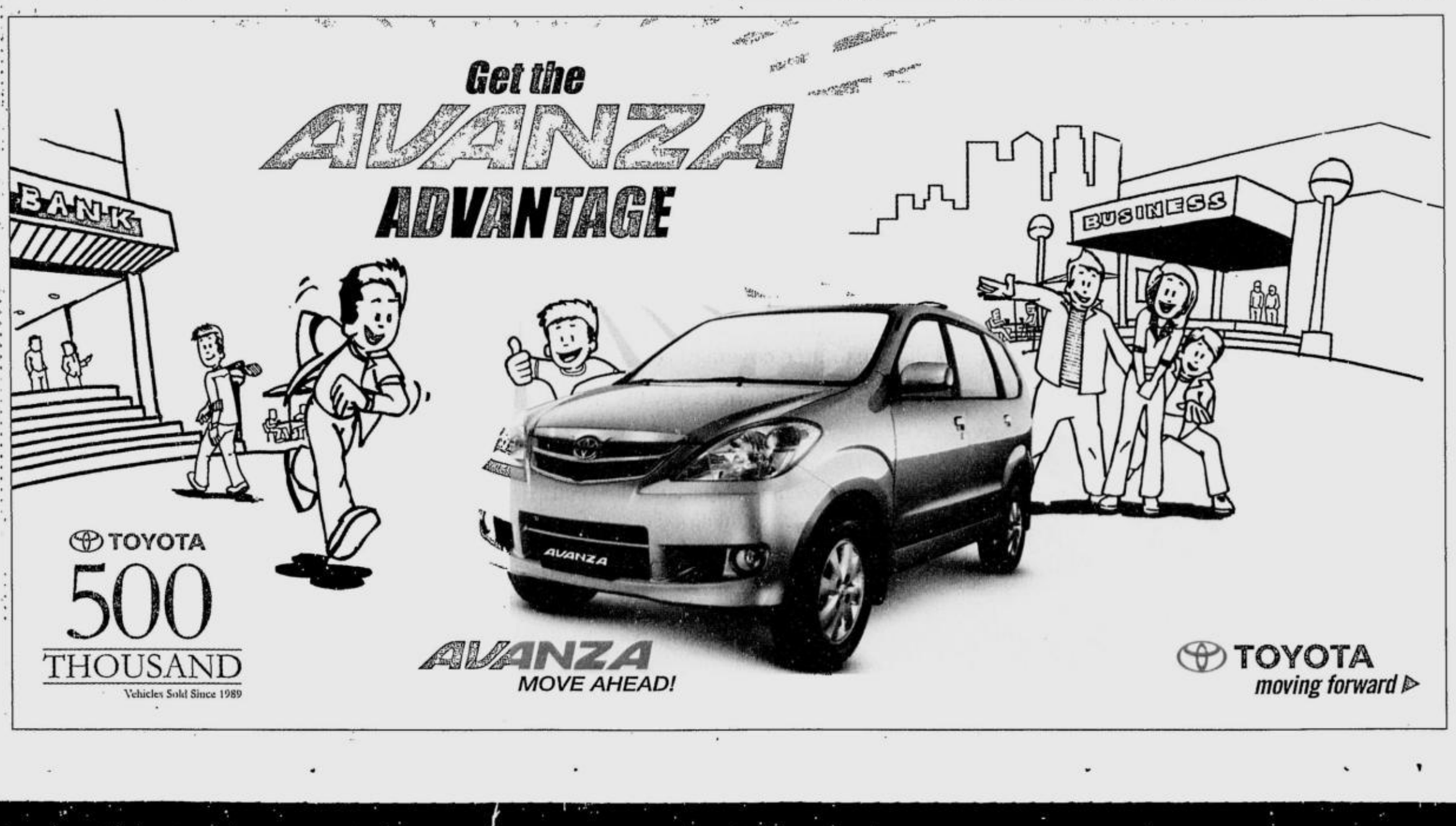
The Belgian FN rifle with both magazine and belt feed would get a higher score, say 10 points, on the feed mechanism criteria and others with no belt feed could get 7 points.

But RA 9184 provides for "pass or fail" criteria so the Belgian FN rifle passed. Other rifles which could have been more suitable for the job have no belt feed hence they did not qualify to bid. The award was almost made to the single qualified bidder who had a magazine and belt fed rifle.

If the NBN project were to proceed under the provisions of RA 9184, Abalos and Mendoza could easily put up a few "pass or fail" criteria that would eliminate everyone else other than ZTE.

I hope that Congress finally realizes the need to fix some glaring flaws in the Procurement Reform ? Law.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is president of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)



GOINGS-ON

Robinsons Appliances opens flagship store

ROBINSONS APPLIANCES' FLAGship store is set to open at the Robinsons Galleria on Oct. 19, bringing to 15 its number of branches nationwide. Occupying over 1,000 sq.m., it will showcase a wide array of quality products at affordable prices with value added services for its customers.

As an opening promotion, Robinsons Appliances will be giving away 50 Asahi stand fan for every purchase of a major appliance.

A ROBINSONS Appliances store

Jun C. Joaquin Jr., general manager of Robinsons Appliances, says their newest store carries a broad range of appliances to suit the fast-paced business and lifestyle needs of the market.

Considered one of the country's leading and most progressive home-office appliance retailers, Robinsons Appliances offers the latest models in audio-video equipment and other major appliances.

It also makes available Warranty Max for customers, which extends warranty service from date of purchase from two to five years. It also offers the Replacement Advantage Plan.

Bear Brand milk education campaign

NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES INC. (NPI), headed by its chair and CEO Nandu Nandkishore, recently launched Year 2 of its nationwide milk education advocacy campaign called Bear Brand Laki Sa Gatas, in cooperation with the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines at the Bauan East Central School in Batangas, with Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto, concurrently Bear Brand Laki Sa Gatas endorser, as guest of honor.

The launch was highlighted by a learning activity on food sources titled "Go, Grow and Glow" for mothers conducted by a registered nutritionist-dietitian, complemented by interactive games for children.

BATANGAS Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto with Dr. Jesus Inciong of the NFP (left) and Nestlé officials led by chair and CEO Nandu Nandkishore (2nd from left).

The advocacy campaign hopes to help address nutritional deficiencies which, partly, are due to the decreasing milk consumption in the country, Nandkishore said.

The 2003 Food Consumption Survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute showed that the average Filipino child is drinking less than one glass of milk a day.

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UP prof promotes 'harmless agriculture'

By Niña Catherine Calleja
Bay, Laguna

AN AGRICULTURE professor at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) tends a 1,500-square-meter farm in Bay town, Laguna, where organic farming is completely applied to "contribute to the environment's wellness."

Ted Mendoza, 53, a Ph.D., wakes up at about 4 a.m. to look after his more than 50 kinds of crops.

He says he can no longer keep track of the number of ornamental plants he has grown because he keeps on propagating new seeds.

Before 9 a.m., he goes to UPLB for his lectures on crop science and ecological agriculture.

His farm, where he brings his students once during a semester, is the extension of his teaching work.

"I want to prove to my students that what I keep on telling them in class is feasible," Mendoza says.

His family consumes the yields of his farm and gives the excess to his colleagues and neighbors.

"This farm only demonstrates how to live simply while protecting the environment," he says.

Practical farm

Mendoza started exploring his front and backyard two years ago.

For 30 years now, he has been teaching at UPLB and living with his wife Bernadette, a biology professor, and his three children in Bay.

A son of a farmer, Mendoza says he is a farmer by heart and teaching is a sideline.

He says that he felt the need to have his own organic farm to "walk the talk."

Mendoza, in his classes, incessantly criticizes the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, saying these cause harm to the environment.

His green garden has not tasted any chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Even weeds are allowed to grow with the plants, except on the new plants.

'Weed farming'

"This is what I call weed farming. Many people are afraid of weeds. But they just have to know how to work with them," he notes.

If grown and cut, weeds can be good fertilizer of the soil, he adds, but he pulls out weeds for new plants.

He says it is also helpful if crops in the farm are diversified.

"There is no limit on how many crops you plant. Only your creativity and imagination can limit you," he says.

Even the golden snails, which the farmers consider as pest, should not be killed and pulled out of the farm because "there is a unique and productive way of living with the golden snail," he says.

Through raising ducks, proliferation of snail in the farm is no longer a problem.

"Pick duck eggs instead of snails," he quips.

He stresses that farmers need to be creative on how to transform problem to opportunities.

Environment-friendly

Chemical fertilizers and pesticides, according to many recent studies, have largely contributed to greenhouse gas emissions.

Many scientists have been warning the public that agricultural practices affect global warming, which in turn has a huge impact on agriculture and food systems.

"If farmers would engage in organic farming, the contribution to greenhouse gases could be zero," he says.

To produce fertilizer from compost, Mendoza combines biodegradable wastes with rice hull and indigenous microorganisms. The microorganisms act as the compost activator.

DR. TED Mendoza in his farm, which he calls "green forest."
PHOTOS BY NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Even the pig he is raising is not exempted from "organic."

Mendoza's pig named "pogi" is fed with weeds and vegetables. That is why the pigpen is odorless, he says.

He started from conventional feeding to test the water but later on, explored organic feeding.

Solving environment problems is a global action but it should start from our own homes, he says, and goes on showing how his house conserves water and electricity through the rainwater basins connected to their faucet and the air vent that minimizes their use of electric fans.

He brags that their energy bills have been reduced to half.

Experiment field

Mendoza says he treats his farm as his experiment field. Even without funding, he keeps on doing experiments on crops and propagating new varieties of seeds.

With a number of publications, Mendoza was conferred UP Scientist 1 two years ago.

"It is not enough to teach based on second-hand information. The best way to teach is with conviction. I mean everything that I say in class because I have proven that it is achievable and beneficial," he claims.

He is currently conducting experiments on jatropha, known as *tuba-tuba*, which are said to be good source of alternative fuel.

Mendoza has doubts on claims of jatropha being a source of biofuel.

"How can we produce so many jatropha fruits? We need up to 1,500 seeds of jatropha to produce per kilo (liter of oil extracted), and one fruit has roughly three seeds, so you need about 500 fruits more or less," he says.

Apart from doing experiments, Mendoza also trains farmers from nearby towns on organic farming practices.

He keeps on encouraging farmers to venture into organic farming. He says some farmers in his neighborhood now practice partly organic and partly conventional.

There's money in hybrid rice farming

By Amy R. Remo

IT TOOK A LOT OF GUTS FOR Nueva Ecija farmer Felino "Jojo" Garcia Jr. to try his hand in hybrid rice farming in 2001.

After all, with his three children and wife to feed, Garcia could not take chances with technology and start planting a new rice variety.

He had to ensure that his 1.3-hectare plot, where he plants inbred rice variety, would yield at least 80 to 90 sacks a hectare.

For all his efforts, Garcia would only earn P15,000 to P25,000 a hectare.

"I thought that was enough then," he said.

Hard farming life

The 37-year-old farmer relates that back then, life was very hard, with earnings from one harvest hardly enough to buy farm implements for the next planting season.

Add to this the cost of maintaining a household and sending seven children to school, he says.

To make ends meet, Garcia recalled that his parents would most usually find their way to informal lenders, who would charge usurious rates as high as 35 percent.

For his part, Garcia said he started farming as early as 13 years old just so he can help his parents till the family-owned land in Mabini, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija to send his other siblings to college.

"I barely made it out of high school because of poverty," he recounts.

And until recently, Garcia thought he was headed to live the life of his parents all over again.

Better way

After he got married, Garcia looked for and found a better way to earn a living from rice farming.

In 2001, Garcia learned about hybrid rice and how it was increasing farm yields and filling the pockets of fellow farmers bold enough to try the new technology.

Back then, the Department of Agriculture's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani Rice Program had started a pilot program for hybrid rice, which initially entailed a 100-percent seed subsidy.

JOJO Garcia, with his wife and three children, poses with a [illegible]

For farmers, this was a big help since seeds per 20-kilo bag could cost anywhere between P2,000 and P3,000.

Garcia tried his luck and succeeded far beyond his expectations.

And as far as Garcia is concerned, "there is, indeed, money in hybrid rice."

Increased yield

In a span of six years, Garcia was able to expand his lot to 12 hectares, which would yield an average of 200 cavans a hectare.

On good days, Garcia notes that his farm can even yield up to 246 sacks or 13.8 tons a hectare, pushing his income to as much as P97,000.

On top of what hybrid rice farming had done to him, Garcia notes hybrid rice cultivation also "helps the country in generating more jobs because it needs manpower for pulling seedlings, transplanting, up to harvesting."

"I am proud of what I have achieved and I wanted to spread the blessing," he says.

Model cluster

Thus, in 2005, Garcia had helped put up the Bagong Buhay ng Mabini Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BBMMPC) in Nueva Ecija.

Considered to date as one of the model hybrid rice clusters in the country, the BBMMPC has more than 200 hectares of rice field planted to hybrid rice for this dry cropping season.

Planting hybrid rice enabled these farmers to harvest as much as 170 to 240 cavans a hectare, higher than their usual output of 100-120 cavans per hectare. Each cavan holds 56 kilos.

This translates to an increase in profit to about P50,000 to P90,000 a hectare from the previous low of P15,000 to P20,000.

From having only 31 members in their cooperative, the BBMMPC has now grown to have 52 members under its cluster.

"All our members are now enthusiastic about the new rice technologies being promoted by the Department of Agriculture," Garcia said.

Garcia is likewise thankful for the continuous support of the Department of Agriculture's GMA Rice program to hybrid farmers.

Under the program, rice farmers get seed subsidy, free batch-type rice dryer developed by the Philippine Rice Research Institute, as well as credit support.

To complement these projects, the National Irrigation Administration repairs and rehabilitates farm-to-market roads.

"We also welcome the agriculture department's assistance to our cooperative, which we believe could further increase our rice yields and earnings," he says.

Recently, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap awarded BBMMPC with post harvest drying facilities that included rice mill unit, a flatbed dryer, manual harvester, platform balance, and moisture meter.

Two units of rice thresher are being installed in a 4,000-square-meter lot owned by the cooperative members.

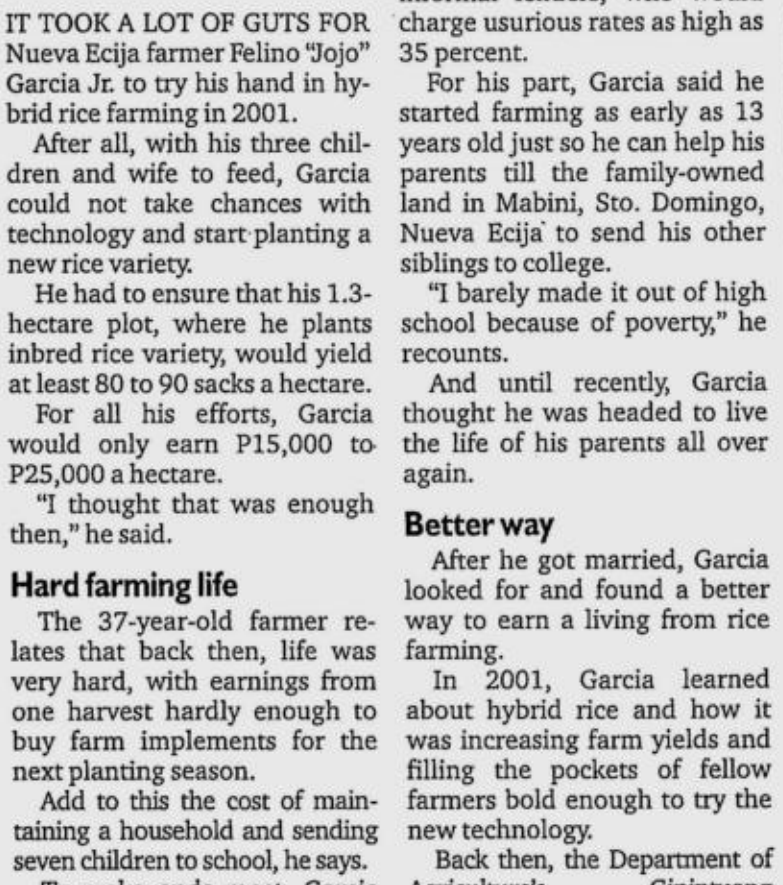
The ongoing project is being funded by National Agricultural Business Corp.

Yap said these post harvest drying facilities will lessen palay losses and improve the productivity of the cooperative.

"The government believes that our farmers, given the proper assistance, could become true engines of growth and our partner in achieving our goal of becoming self-sufficient in rice," said Yap.

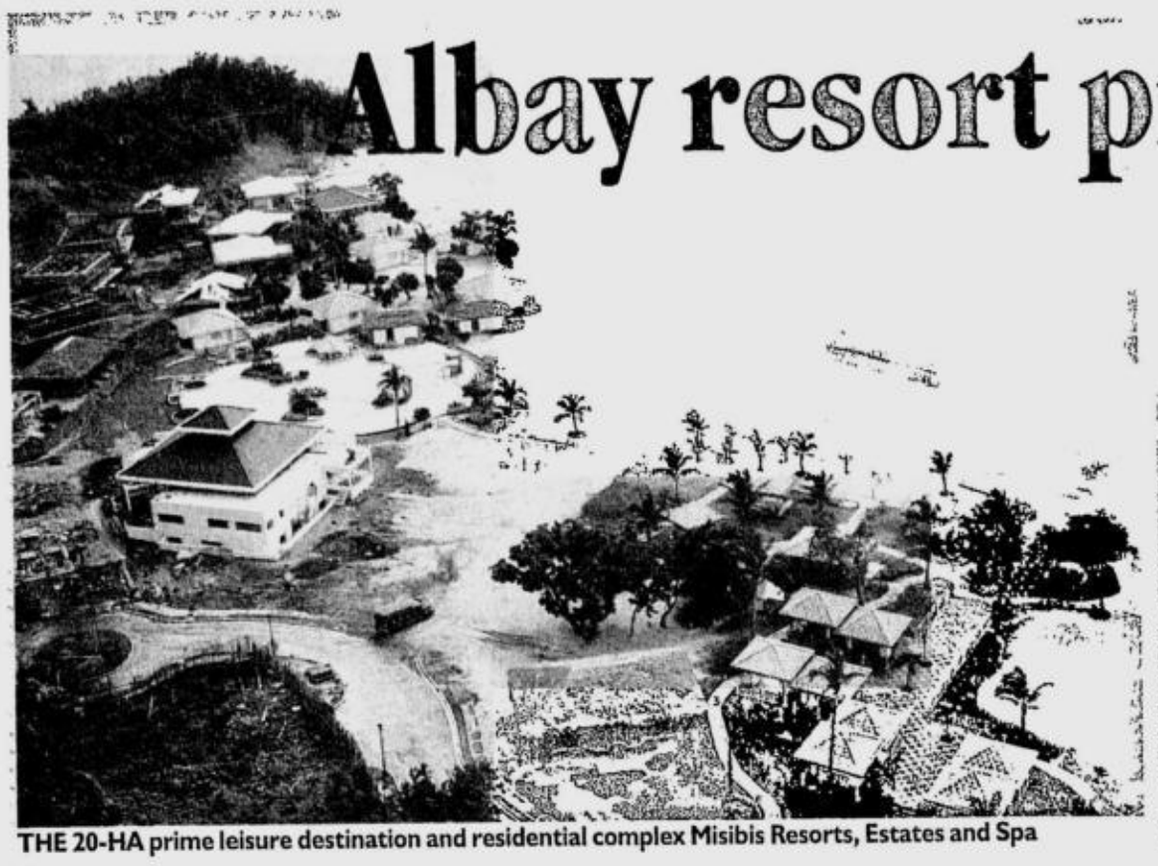
He added that the DA will also give BBMMPC two units of flatbed dryer with biomass furnace to prepare for this coming harvest season.

Flatbed dryers meanwhile were installed last September by PhilRice and Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension.



GARCIA d[illegible] at potential of hybrid rice with A[illegible] tary Arthur C. Yap, during the [illegible] od at the start of the wet cr[illegible]

Albay resort project in full swing



THE 20-HA prime leisure destination and residential complex Misibis Resorts, Estates and Spa

THE RISE of internationally competitive tourist destinations illustrates the rapid revival of the province.

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Photos by Niño Jesus Orbeta
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—MOMENTARILY SET back by the typhoons that hit Albay province last year, construction of facilities has resumed and is now in full swing at the Misibis Resorts, Estates and Spa, a 20-hectare prime leisure destination and residential complex in the nearby Cagraray Island that offers white sand beaches, pristine and peaceful surroundings and a breathtaking view of the Sula Channel.

The complex, a project of the Misibis Land Inc., will formally open during the third quarter of next year, to coincide with the soft launch of its sister project, the Embarcadero, according to Salvador Ludovice, corporate communications specialist of the Sunwest Group of Companies.

The Embarcadero is another world-class destination in the Bicol Region being put up by the MLI in Legazpi City's Port District, which aims to transform the area into a chic bayfront commercial, recreational and information technology complex, Ludovice added.

Already tagged as a Triple Class A resort and the third tourism economic zone in the country, the Misibis Resorts has already achieved world recognition and has accommodated VIPs even before it has publicly opened.

"There are even plans for the resort to host a visit from the 2007 Miss Earth contestants this October," Ludovice cited.

Misibis Lots Phase I have already been sold out, but more inventories have been made available with the launch of Phase II last April.

Roads have been networked across the estate, while six duplex- and triplex-type villas have been completed.

More villas are under construction along with a clubhouse, an activity center and a reception area—all of which are located near the beach front.

The boardwalk, gazebo and themed pool are also complete, giving the estate a lush and relaxing layout.

The overhaul in partners have brought about a change in the architectural theme of the Misibis Resorts, with the initial Spanish-Mediterranean design taken in for a more appropriate Asian-Tropical concept, which will highlight the natural resources in the locality such as coconut trees and volcanic rocks.

Revival

In its vision to be a self-sustaining estate, Misibis Resorts have taken into account the according development of its host island.

Not only will it put the Cagraray Island on the world tourist map, the project will also generate employment for the immediate communities, Ludovice said.

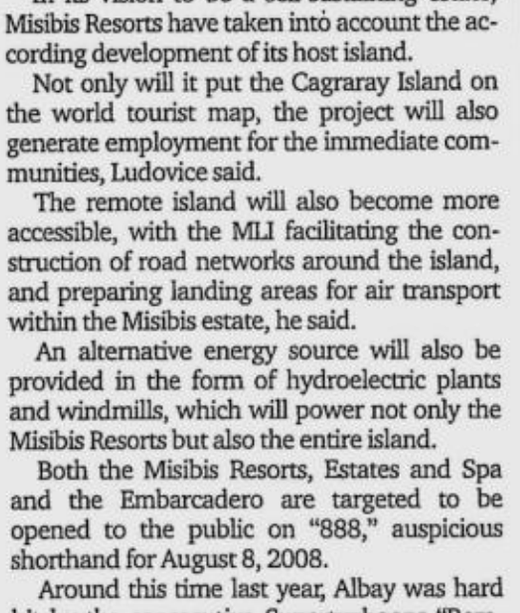
The remote island will also become more accessible, with the MLI facilitating the construction of road networks around the island, and preparing landing areas for air transport within the Misibis estate, he said.

An alternative energy source will also be provided in the form of hydroelectric plants and windmills, which will power not only the Misibis Resorts but also the entire island.

Both the Misibis Resorts, Estates and Spa and the Embarcadero are targeted to be opened to the public on "888," auspicious shorthand for August 8, 2008.

Around this time last year, Albay was hard hit by the consecutive Supertyphoons "Reming" and "Milenyo." But the rise of internationally competitive tourist destinations here illustrates the rapid revival of the province.

"Whenever investors and tourists visit Bicol, they're always surprised to see how fast we are recovering," said Vitaliano Ubaldo Jr., project manager for both MLI projects.



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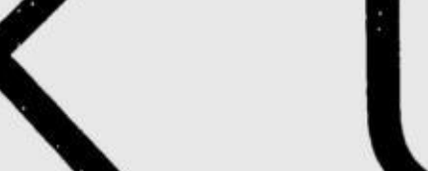

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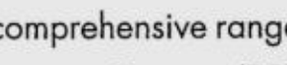

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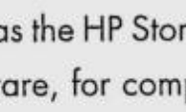

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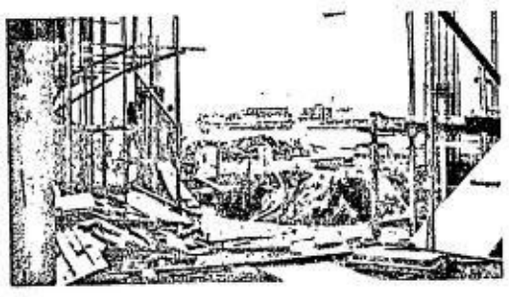

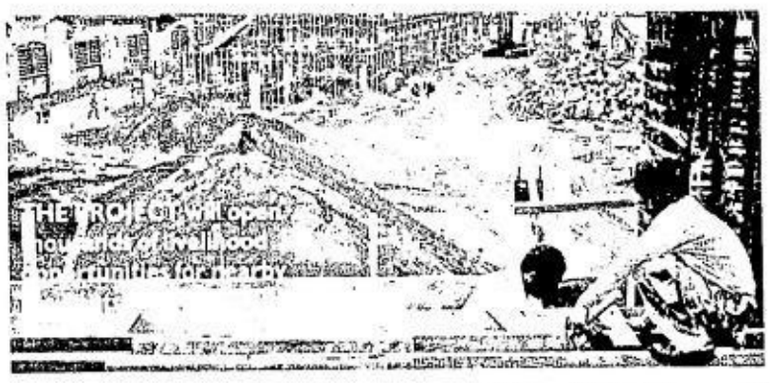

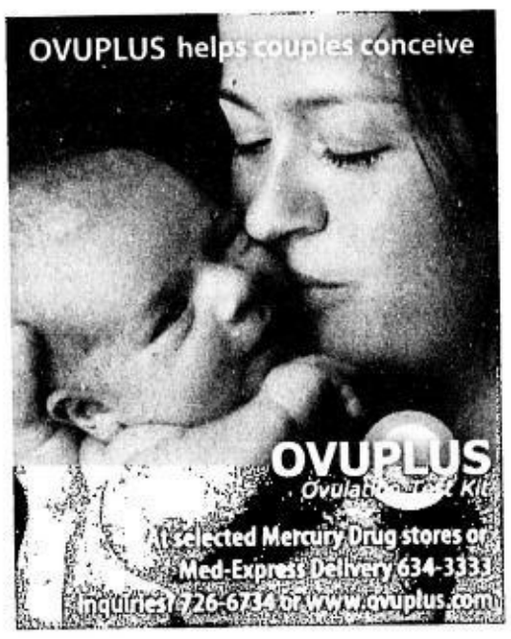

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Commercial, IT hub to rise in Legazpi port area

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—IT IS EASY TO imagine how picturesque it would be to have a lifestyle center along a baywalk—easier still to imagine its potential as a commercial hub and tourist attraction.

But how easy is it to imagine one such place in a typhoon-stricken province?

For Misibis Land Inc., it doesn't pose a problem at all as it braved the challenge and set off to pioneer another world-class destination in Bicol.

This city's Port District locals have little idea that by this time next year, the five-month-old construction site currently spanning 2,000 square meters along the city pier, will be transformed into a waterfront commercial, recreational and information technology complex.

To be unveiled next year as the Embarcadero, it will provide a comprehensive array of services catering to a broad market, regardless of economic status and lifestyle, while preserving an upscale atmosphere through the architectural design envisioned by a foreign consultant.

The building plan is now being carried out by Sunwest Construction & Development Corp.

The Embarcadero will stretch across 2.5 hectares, composed of nine expansive structures

COMMERCIAL/ B3-2

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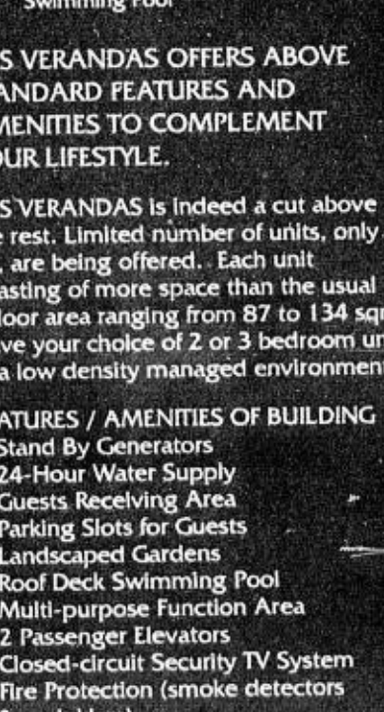
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Las Verandas
A RARE FIND

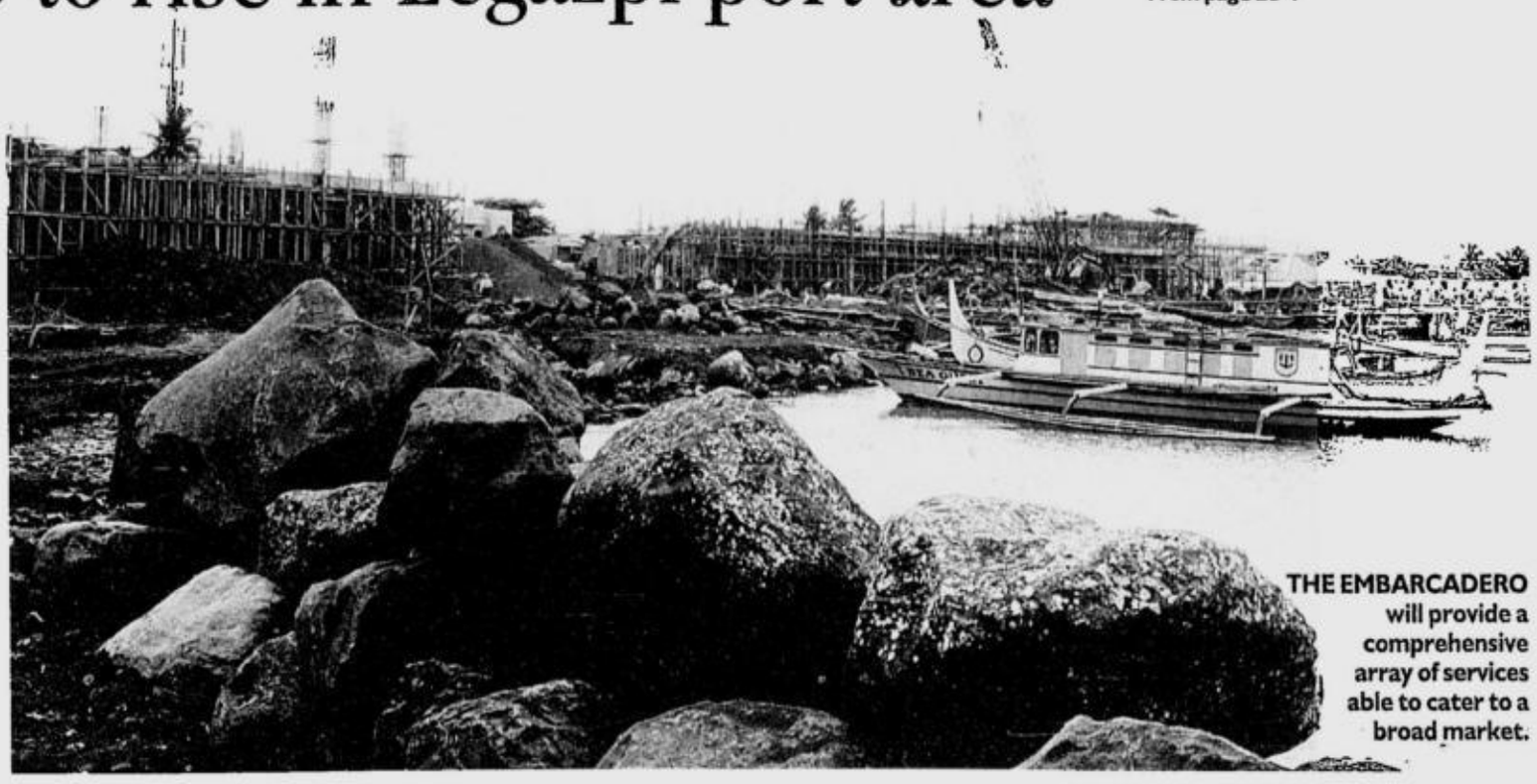
For announcement purposes only.

Commercial, IT hub to rise in Legazpi port area

From page B3-1

mothercare

MOTHERCARE, a British retailing store for parents and parents-to-be, formally opens at Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Diahann Mella, president of Saiglobal Inc., welcomes guests and members of the media during the launch.



THE EMBARCADERO will provide a comprehensive array of services able to cater to a broad market.

facing a panoramic view of Albay Gulf and the world-renowned Mayon Volcano.

A four-level mall will be built which will house specialty shops, restaurants, hotels, spas, bars, a supermarket, gaming and Internet hubs, and even an 800-seat call center which will be in operation round the clock.

Six other buildings, with one to two floors each, will be lined with walk-in retail stores and bistros.

"MLI specifically aims to bring in establishments currently without branches in Legazpi City or nearby areas," said Salvador Ludovice, corporate communications specialist of Sunwest Group of Companies.

A spacious open-air activity plaza will be the centerpiece of Embarcadero, which will provide a venue for conventions, expos, trade fairs, concerts and other large events, while still giving way to food stalls, kiosks and rest benches around the periphery.

Patrons can also opt to simply enjoy the sea breeze: strolling, biking, rollerblading, or just taking photos of the coastal view along the baywalk and wooden boardwalks fringing the premises.

A 30-meter lighthouse will also be constructed to punctuate the international impression envisioned by the MLI.

Once site development is finished, water sports will also figure in the plan, with MLI looking into providing diving, sailing and snorkeling services.

With abundant beaches, rich coral formations and even sunken galleons in and around the Legazpi City coast, Embarcadero will prove rewarding for aquatic enthusiasts.

Jump-off point

Embarcadero will also serve as the "jump-off point" to other tourist destinations in the province.

The MLI plans to offer cruise boat rides, island hopping, and tours to attractions such as the Mayon Volcano, the historic Cagsawa Ruins, and the Lignon Hill and cave—all but a 20- to 30-minute ride away from the Legazpi City Port District.

It will also serve as a means to reach MLI's first brainchild in the Bicol Region, the Misibis Resorts, Estates & Spa, a near-completed high-end resort and residential area on the remote Cagraray Island off Albay.

Vitaliano Ubaldo Jr., project manager for both MLI projects, said the initial investment for the Embarcadero cost around P450 million to P500 million for the current construction of Phase 1, or the first three buildings, alone.

With the influx of tourism and economic benefits it will generate, the Embarcadero is also looking to be the "jump-off point" for the progress of the immediate community.

It is foreseen to create a thriving business climate and a steady source of income for the local government, while opening thousands of livelihood opportunities for nearby residents.

The 800-seat call center that will operate on eight-hour shifts can bring in 2,400 jobs, while the shops and bistros can open around 3,400 jobs, equivalent to about P400 million to P450 million job wage per year.

Hazard-resistant

Although dynamic in concept, the waterfront structure will still prove solid and safe from typhoons, earthquakes and floods, project engineer Jerry Beja said.

"The Embarcadero will have typhoon-resistant buildings. It stands on a rock base, and will be elevated 80 meters from the natural ground line," he said.

The baywalk will also act as an inclined but elevated seawall. According to Beja, 500 meters more of the shoreline needs to be reclaimed for Phase III of the construction.

Ubaldo said the project is 23-percent completed, adding that by March of next year, seven of the nine buildings of Embarcadero would have been completed.

The soft launch of Embarcadero is set to be held simultaneously with the opening of its sister project, the Misibis Resorts, Estates & Spa, during the third quarter of next year, Ludovice said.

The 20-hectare prime leisure destination and residential complex in nearby Cagraray Island offers white sand beaches, pristine and peaceful surroundings and a breathtaking view of the Sula Channel.

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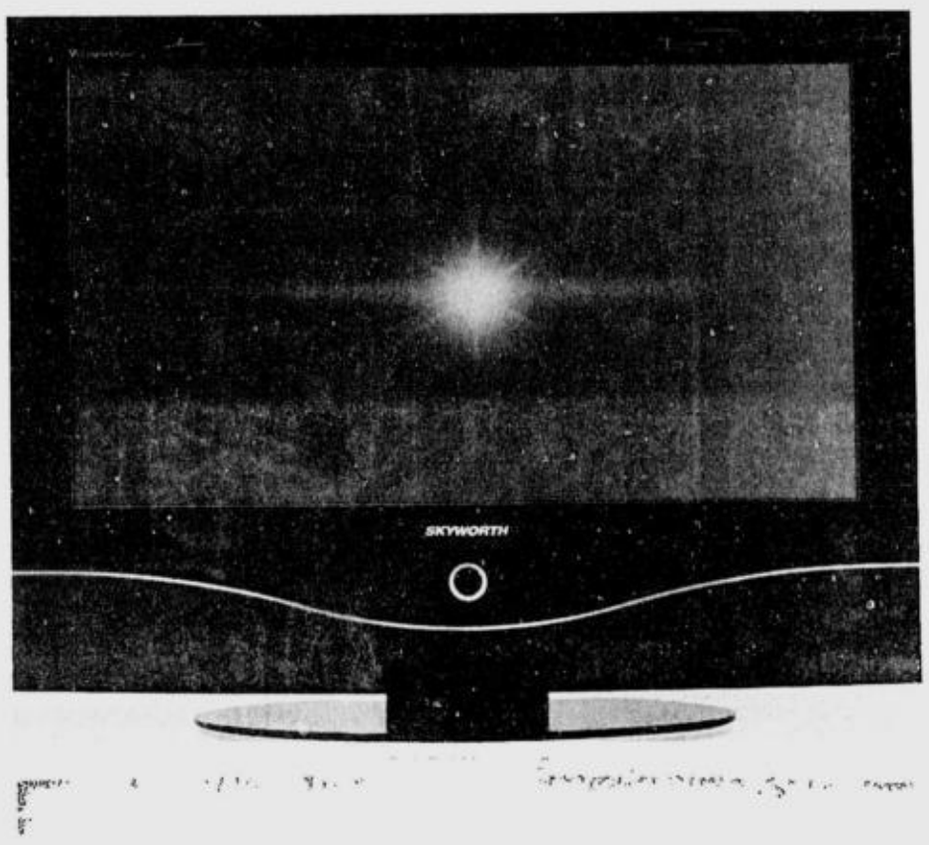

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NATUROPATH Farida Sharan with Perla Rempe: Raving about Palawan's Malacapao resort and Readers' Choice of The Farm at San Benito as Best Spa of the Philippines and Best Spa Cuisine menu.

IAN BREWIS of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts: Investing in the Filipino working force through the Spa Academy in Edsa Shangri-La and their third Chi Resort and Spa in Boracay.

PHILIPPINE Convention and Visitors Corp.'s Susan del Mundo: Happy to receive 266 delegates from 33 countries for the summit.

SAMANTHA FOSTER, director of International Projects for Chiva Som wellness resort in Thailand, presides over a side meeting of the Asia Spa and Wellness Council with representives from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean area.

MIKE TURVILL of Spa Essentials and partner Catherine Brillantes of Spa Professionals International Development Center.

Hitching on...

From page B3-4

ticipation of South Africa, the United States and Europe.

Cathy Brillantes-Turvill, Philippine representative to the Asia Pacific Spa and Wellness Council, viewed the summit as a valuable forum for networking and a reality check for the spa and wellness industry. For it to move forward, it must raise the bar of excellence, be more business oriented and address specific issues such as the Green issue to make the industry sustainable.

At present, the Philippines has only two internationally accredited spa schools which are both nominees for the Crystal Awards: Brillantes-Turvill's Spa Professional International Development Center and Shangri-La Hotel's Spa Academy. And it is not enough. Quality education is an area where the assistance of the government is needed.

Brillantes-Turvill says, "Some local spas are still unwilling to invest time and money in 2-3 months of proper training. We need to follow international standards of training, including the study of the sciences and validated techniques. The local industry cannot rely on unscientific and unstructured homegrown treatment methods, if we are to compete on an international level."

Eckard Rempe, founder of The Farm at San Benito, maintains that the wellness entrepreneurial vision is more than just a profit-making venture, admitting as much that the highly acclaimed wellness resort with 8 Asia Crystal and Baccarat awards to its credit, is high on fame but not on fortune. It staunchly pursues its vision of raising natural wellness awareness among the populace—not excluding government decision-makers. The entrepreneur said he went ahead against all odds to build a premier health facility knowing that he could not create a stir—and an opportunity for making a significant change in the lives of people—by putting up just a mom-and-pop spa operation.

During the SpaAsia Crystal Awards held on the second day, The Farm at San Benito was the SpaAsia magazine readers' choice for Best Spa of the Philippines and Best Spa Cuisine menu in the only award for the country, in an event dominated by the big hotel chains.

Wellness facility owners can only remain hopeful that the convergence of minds from different sectors will lead to providing an enabling environment for public-private partnership.

Towards the end of the summit, Tourism Assistant Secretary for Wellness and Sports Cynthia Carreon exuded optimism about the country's prospects, promising government incentives to make "Paradise Philippines a haven of caring people." Considering that the fledging Philippine tourism numbers two to three million annual visitors to Thailand's 15 million, it fared well in projecting the Philippines as a viable wellness destination which the Department of Tourism hope would translate into concrete figures in the years to come.

Ian Brewis, senior director for Spas & Health Clubs for Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts worldwide, is indeed upbeat about the Philippine spa industry. Shangri-La is currently building its third spa under the 'Chi' brand in the country. Due to open in 2008, the Chi Spa at Shangri-La Boracay Resort will consist of 11 treatment rooms set in a spa village. This follows the company's investment in the same spa brand in the Shangri-La hotels in Mactan and Manila.

Brewis also acknowledged the excellent skills of Filipino spa therapists and established the Shangri-La Spa Academy in Manila to meet the requirements for therapists in the hotel's spa and health clubs worldwide.

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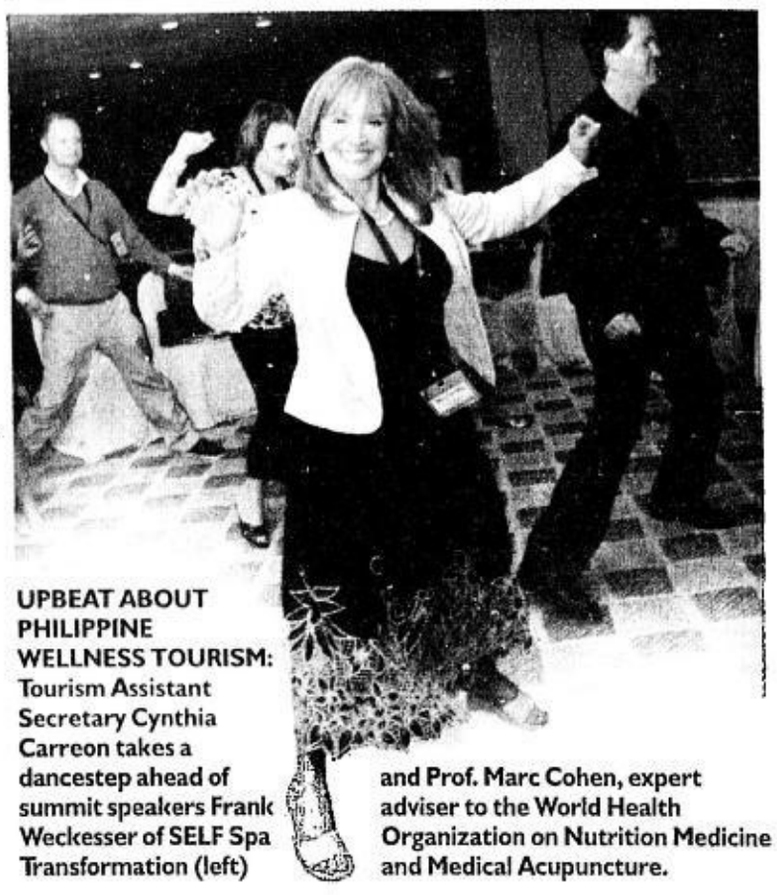

UPBEAT ABOUT PHILIPPINE WELLNESS TOURISM: Tourism Assistant Secretary Cynthia Carreon takes a dancestep ahead of summit speakers Frank Weckesser of SELF Spa Transformation (left) and Prof. Marc Cohen, expert adviser to the World Health Organization on Nutrition Medicine and Medical Acupuncture.

Hitching on to the wellness revolution

By Lynett A. Villariba
Photos by Romy Homillada

DOT's Carreon and Spa Association of the Philippines president Marjorie Lopingco support public-private partnership for wellness tourism

INDUSTRY EXPERTS PROJECT that the wellness boom will become a "trillion-dollar industry" within a decade. Financiers and investors, key executives of governments, executives and professionals from the infrastructure and travel industries have been converging in the Asia Pacific region in an annual Wellness Summit towards realizing this goal.

The Department of Tourism, in line with its wellness tourism thrust, together with the Spa Association of the Philippines signified their intent to get a piece of the current US200 billion-dollar pie with their hosting of the third SpaAsia Wellness Summit in Manila on Oct. 3-5.

The impetus has been provided by the Philippines winning prestigious industry awards for two resorts—Lipa's The Farm at San Benito and Boracay's Mandala Spa—in the last three years. The awards are indicative of the Asia Pacific region's respect for the Filipino healing touch coupled with facility in language as well as recognition of the owners' entrepreneurial vision.

This year's Wellness Summit started on the premise that after two summits, both held in Thailand, the industry has now evolved and matured so that the next phase is to take it a step further in more concrete and tangible forms, through proven methods, techniques and doable programs.

Attracting 266 delegates from 33 countries, the gathering achieved a wider continental representation with the par-

HITCHING/ B3-3

Asia Forum on solidarity economy set

THE ADVOCATES for Servant Leadership (ASL) is co-organizing the Asian Forum for Solidarity (Baya-nihan) Economy on Oct. 17-20, 2007, at the Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

The forum aims to enable socially responsible entrepreneurs to interface with socially responsible investors.

Among the investors participating in the event is the International Association of Investors in Social Economy (INAISE) with its head office in Belgium.

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LIFESTYLE

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle

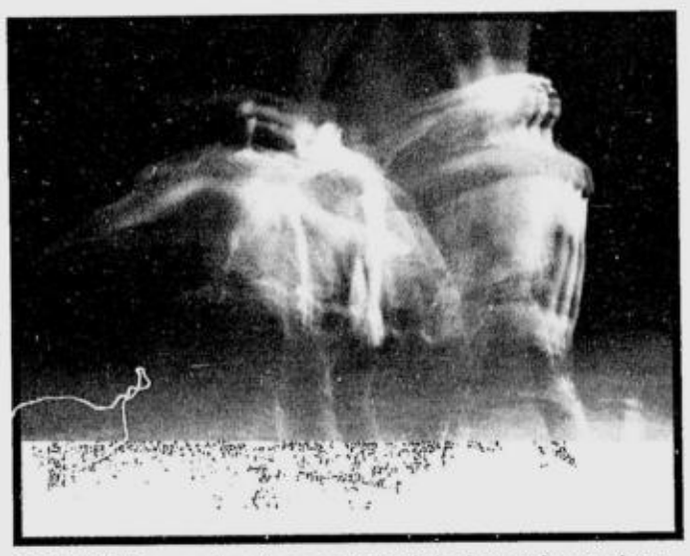
MUSICA y Danza en la Corte Real combines castanets and 18th-century classical Spanish ballet.

The light railway system around the metro will carry stickers and bills containing the most delightful contemporary Spanish poetry

FLAMENCO dancer David Perez

FIESTA! 2007

Ride the Metro, enjoy Spanish verso



"A HUETOS yo solo quiero caminar," the latest dance piece of Spanish choreographer Alberto Huetos

DWOMO, the famous Spanish techno-rock group

THE INSTITUTO CERVANTES de Manila will launch a unique literacy-literary campaign that will not only deepen the love of reading among passengers of Metro Manila's light railway system, but also foster the enjoyment and appreciation of the best of Spanish poetry and culture.

José R. Rodriguez, director of Instituto Cervantes, will inaugurate "Berso sa Metro" on Oct. 16, 11:30 a.m., at the Araneta-Cubao Station, Line 2, Aurora Blvd., LRT Authority, QC.

The promotional reading campaign is among the highlights of this year's Fiesta, the Spanish cultural festival organized by Instituto Cervantes.

RIDE/ C2

LOOK WHO'S TALKING WORLDWIDE!

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Project Manager
Saudi Arabia

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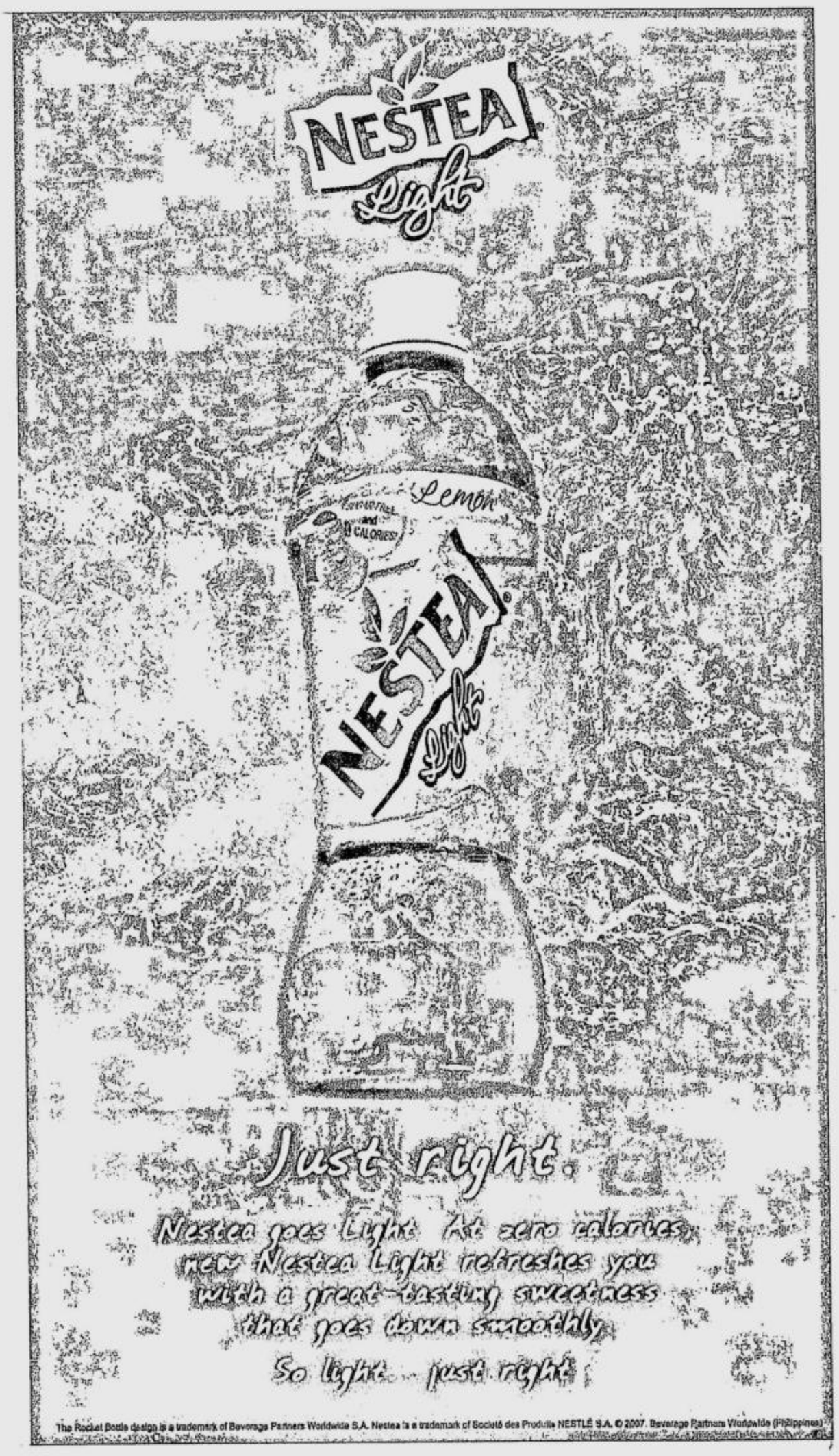


PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

Manila's Army and Navy Club to be restored

THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB IS HAVING a tough time slipping graciously into old age. The landmark American colonial structure dating from the early 20th century has fallen into hard times.

During the previous term of Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim, the elegant club building was used as Museo ng Maynila, a project abandoned by the mayor who succeeded him. For a while the city architect's office was in the building, but as the deterioration of the building went unchecked, it had to move out.

The empty building was then used as a manufacturing facility for the city's Christmas lanterns that were stored in the premises after each season to wait for the next year. The Army-Navy was such a pitiful sight.

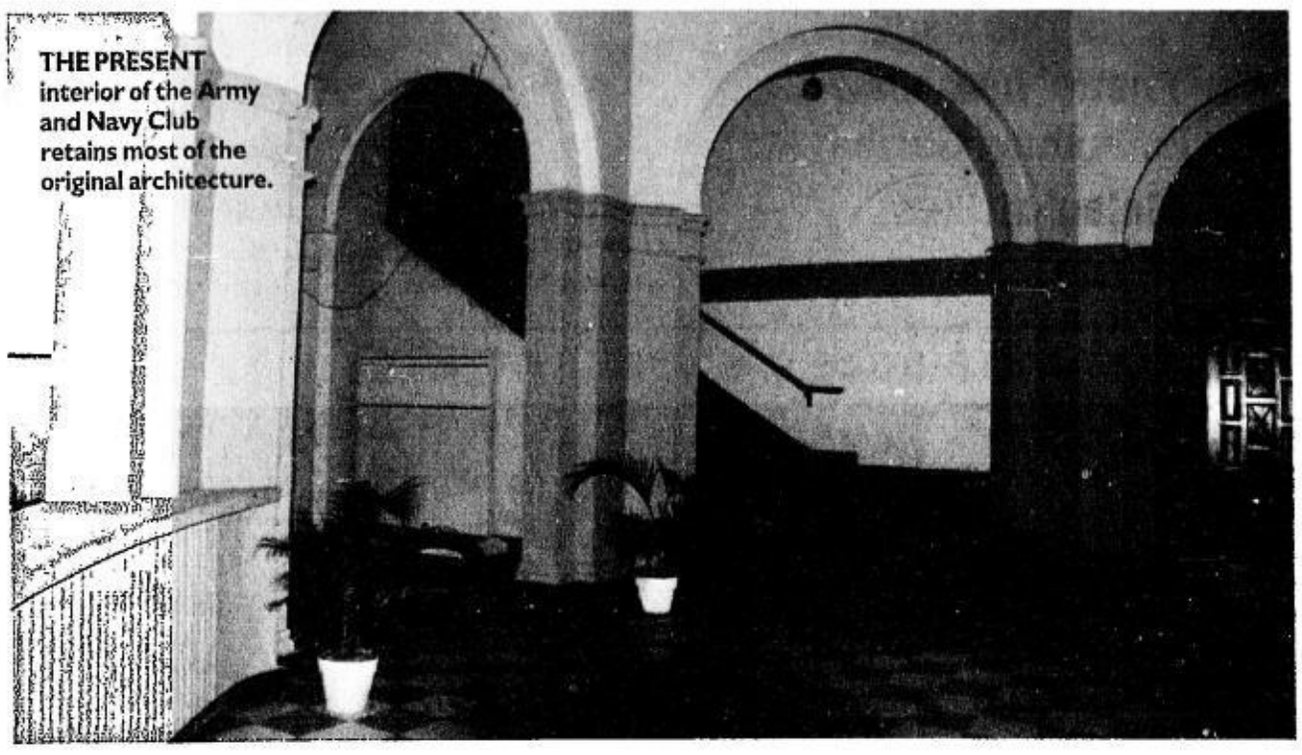
Meanwhile the Army and Navy's companion structure and neighbor, the former Elks Club on the corner of Roxas Boulevard that dates from the same period, renewed itself as the Museo Pambata, a popular educational destination where schoolchildren have fun with interactive exhibits that teach Philippine culture, science and history.

While busloads of children filled Museo Pambata with wonder and laughter, the former Army-Navy Club next door decayed away into near ruin.

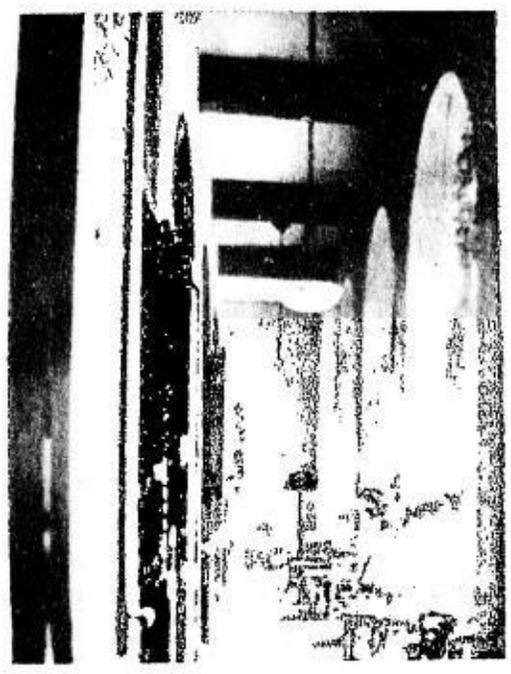
During his first three months as comebacking mayor, Alfredo S. Lim organized the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission to pursue his vision of restoring Manila's former grandeur, focusing on the city's rich and colorful cultural legacy.

The mayor noted Manila was the only city

Manila Mayor Lim has established the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission to study the restoration of the Army and Navy Club and the Metropolitan Theater



THE PRESENT interior of the Army and Navy Club retains most of the original architecture.



ARMY and Navy Club hallway during better times

FALLING on hard times, the Army and Navy Club went through a period of being the dumping ground for Manila's used Christmas ornaments.

that showed all the periods of our history—pre-Hispanic, Spanish and American colonial, and modern Filipino.

"Legacies from the past like archaeological sites in Arroceros, Spanish colonial edifices in Intramuros, and American-period buildings have to be conserved," Lim said. "Heritage is now an equal concern of the commission."

The mayor announced: "The Manila Historical and Heritage Commission will document built heritage resources of Manila, undertake efforts to increase and inculcate historical awareness with the goal of establishing pride of place in all city sectors, including barangays, public and private schools, and universities."

The commission's centerpiece projects are the restoration of the Army-Navy Club and its reopening as Museo ng Maynila and the restoration of the Metropolitan Theater as a much needed venue for cultural events.

E-mail the author at pride.place @gmail.com.

DWOMO band member

Ride the Metro, enjoy Spanish verso

From page C1

Over the weekend, Pelicula/Pelicula, the annual showcase of Spanish and Latin American cinema, which is part of Fiesta, closed with "La Vida Secreta de las Palabras" (The Secret Life of Words) being named Audience Choice of the two-week festival.

Other Fiesta! events:

Musica y danza en la Corte Real

Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m., Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium RCBC Plaza. Call 0928-4375150.

Musica y danza en la Corte Real is a production of the Formación de Cámara Almodis where the music of Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805) is combined with a scene of castanets and Spanish classical ballet of the 18th century. Boccherini, a composer of Italian descent, carried out most of his artistic work in Spain, in the court of the Borbon royal family. His works reflect the essence of Spanish character.

Viva la diferencia

Oct. 18-Dec. 1, Galería de Exposiciones, Instituto Cervantes de Manila

Excellent advertising creates new artistic languages. To give an idea of the Spanish advertising industry, Instituto Cervantes and the Club de Creativos de España have gathered more than 200 visual and audiovisual creations. It is the best of Spain's most recent advertisements in one exhibit.

Yo sólo quiero caminar

Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m., CCP Little Theater, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Pasay

Spanish choreographer Alberto Huetos presents his latest modern dance piece.

Modern dance workshop by Alberto Huetos

Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-12 nn, Instituto Cervantes de Manila

The workshop is open to choreographers and dancers interested in exploring new possibilities in contemporary dance. Call 5261447.

Guitar workshop by Miguel Trápaga

Oct. 22, 1 - 4 p.m., Instituto Cervantes

Spanish guitarist Miguel Trápaga, a professor in the Real Conservatorio Superior de Música in Madrid, will conduct a workshop for a limited number of advanced level guitar students. Call 5261447.

200 años de Guitarra Española

Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza

Spanish guitarist Miguel Trápaga presents his personal journey of 200 years of Spanish classical music, which includes works of composers Dionisio Aguado, Fernando Sor, Federico Moreno Torroba and José Manuel Fernández.

Homenaje a Andrés Segovia

Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., Instituto Cervantes. Call 0928-4375150.

Andrés Segovia (1893-1987) is one of the most celebrated figures of Spanish guitar of the 20th century. He has been a great inspiration in the acceptance of the guitar as an instrument in its own right in the art and music world. In this concert, Spanish guitarist Miguel Trápaga pays tribute to the legacy of Segovia by playing some of the most familiar pieces.

Flamencos: Grupo de Baile Flamenco

Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m., Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza. By invitation.

JORDI Sabatés plays music to accompany silent films by Segundo de Chomon.

David Pérez Almagro was born 22 years ago in Alcalá de Guadaira (Seville). In 2004, he was awarded the Desplante Award in the Festival Internacional del Cante de las Minas de la Unión (Murcia), considered one of the most distinguished flamenco schools. With Flamenco viene del sur, David Pérez performs in the most important venues of Spain. In 2004-2005, he toured through different countries in which he achieved unquestionable acclaim from critics and the public. In 2006, he was awarded with the Young Flamenco of Andalucía Prize, by the Federation of Flamenco organizations of Seville.

Lo mejor de Pelicula (The Best of Pelicula/Pelicula)

Oct. 27, 6 p.m., Instituto Cervantes

Instituto Cervantes will re-screen the Audience Award of the festival.

Launch party of Café de las Letras

Oct. 27, 8 p.m., Instituto Cervantes

Come and visit Instituto Cervantes' new hangout! Enjoy mouth-watering tapas in our authentic Spanish café.

Dwomo

Oct. 27, 9 p.m., Instituto Cervantes

The story of how Dwomo came to be is just as special as its music. The group has nothing to do neither with futile marketing tactics disguised to be modern nor with passing trends. They make a cosmic cocktail blended with global vision. Dwomo is composed of Jorge Loran Martín-Fabiani and Antonio J. Iglesias Zurita, two Madrileños who love sound and create musical artifacts. Their songs have a dose of techno and rock with a cosmopolitan soul.

Visit http://manila.cervantes.es.

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Instituto Cervantes . . .

From page C4

signed an agreement with the Department of Labor and Employment requiring all those leaving to work in Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries to take Spanish lessons at the Instituto.

Domestically, the proliferation of call centers with requirements of bilingual capability has added to the upsurge of Spanish students at Instituto.

As a journalist by profession with over 25 years of experience in the Philippines, Rodriguez has the best qualifications to fulfill the goal of the Instituto,

"I want the Instituto to be known to every Filipino," he says. He has untiringly pursued projects that would bring the culture of Spain to the local population.

He has signed memoranda of agreement with the Light and Metro Railway Transits for promotional stickers to be posted on its coaches. The Instituto also co-sponsors with the Bureau of Broadcasts the weekly radio program "Filipinas Pilipinas Ahora Mismo," with information on everything Spanish.

But Rodriguez has more dreams for his adopted country. "My dream is for Instituto Cervantes to represent a way of life to every Filipino and Filipina. A place for friendship and culture, a place for personal growth, and a place were there is room for everyone."

The 'Crux' of the matter

Painter Emmanuel Garibay and poet Angelo Suarez collaborate in a stimulating exhibit

"AS IF the back couldn't be appreciated on its own ..."

By Lito B. Zulueta

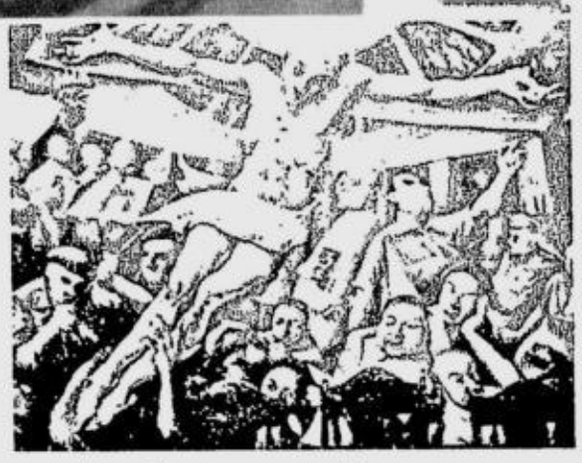
IMAGE AND WORD COMPOSE a universe both familiar and strange in "Crux," described by its organizer, the Canvas art promotion group, as an "exposition of paintings and poems," at the Ayala Museum starting Oct. 18. The word denotes the large-scale exhibit of Emmanuel Garibay's paintings (some 20 works, which is quite big for a new show) while connoting the strategy of the verses by young poet Angelo Suarez that complement the canvases, the poetry being an expounding or explanation of the issues posed by the paintings.

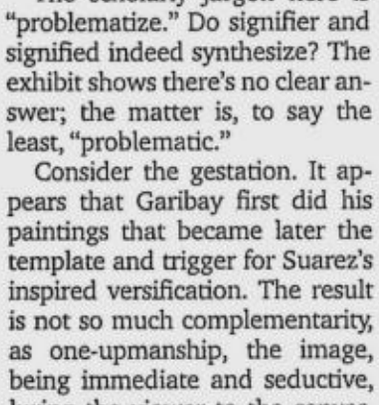
A collaboration between Garibay and Suarez, "Crux" does not so much locate the pivotal point where and when image and word clash or bond, as stir the conundrum and the poser whether indeed meaning is fixed and reinforced by the tandem (of the image and word, not of Garibay and Suarez, although whether the latter pair embodies the former's concepts is itself one of the "cruxes" of the matter).

The scholarly jargon here is "problematize." Do signifier and signified indeed synthesize? The exhibit shows there's no clear answer; the matter is, to say the least, "problematic."

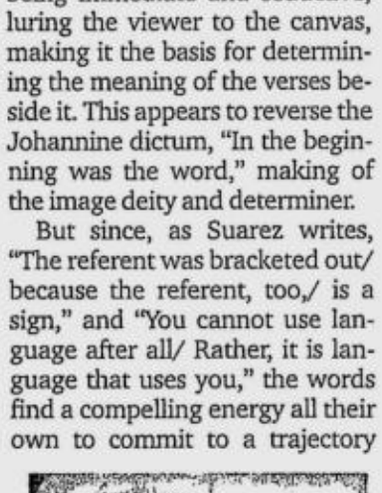
Consider the gestation. It appears that Garibay first did his paintings that became later the template and trigger for Suarez's inspired versification. The result is not so much complementarity, as one-upmanship, the image, being immediate and seductive, luring the viewer to the canvas, making it the basis for determining the meaning of the verses beside it. This appears to reverse the Johannine dictum, "In the beginning was the word," making of the image deity and determiner.

But since, as Suarez writes, "The referent was bracketed out/ because the referent, too,/ is a sign," and "You cannot use language after all/ Rather, it is language that uses you," the words find a compelling energy all their own to commit to a trajectory away from the precursor-painting. The result is not so much crux, but flux.





"BACK-TO-BACK as in a can// or in a jeep ..."



"NO one is allowed to see what happens next ..."

As Suarez writes in the verses that accompany Garibay's paintings of the exterior and interior of a packed jeepney, "w/c-ever crams/ the meaning best/ packs the most signification."

But because he has a more evolved imagery, Garibay's works mesmerize and transfix. Here are the vintage Garibay images: a withering critique of folk Catholicism and the ecclesiastical hierarchy, a heady rendering of Manila's urban chaos, the sheer clutter and utter nausea of inner-city living. The images compose a veritable iconography, a network of meanings and interpretations.

All of this of course lends well to Suarez's city-seared, Rastah-spirited poesy. Both Garibay and Suarez, after all, are poets of the streets, their essential spirit uncannily fused, for example, in the painting and poetry about a woman's back clad in manton de Manila, which was famous in Europe during the Spanish era and was supposed to have come from Manila but was really from China, a metaphor of the complexity of meanings and locations as well as the tortuous complexion of the so-called Filipino soul, a complexity that is best rendered as mimesis, farce, parody, and inevitably, nihilism: "The spine is a window through which peers out the travesty of mimesis, the mime acting out the clown acting out the comedy acting out the actor acting to the tune of nothing in particular-really- . . ."

Despite his images holding dominion, Garibay takes to Suarez's linguistic games by painting a university don holding a pipe, on which Suarez inscribes the famous words of Rene Magritte about his painting of a pipe, "This is not a pipe."

The meaning of the collaboration becomes apparent: image and word in one canvas invoke what Michel Foucault describes as "the separation between linguistic signs and plastic elements; equivalence of resemblance and affirmation," which means the tension that exists in classical painting that excludes language and meaning. By joining image and word in one canvas, Magritte provides a discursive space for painting and poetry to interact. Whether they come to a *modus vivendi* of some meaning is for the viewer-reader to decide. And that's the "Crux" of the matter.

Emmanuel Garibay and Angelo Suarez's "Crux" opens with cocktails at 6 p.m. on Oct. 18 at the ArtistSpace, 2/F, Glass Wing of the Ayala Museum. Call or text 0917-8906160.

"I AM a sucker for truth and beauty"; (left) "Let your country be free by the crucifixion of traitors ..."

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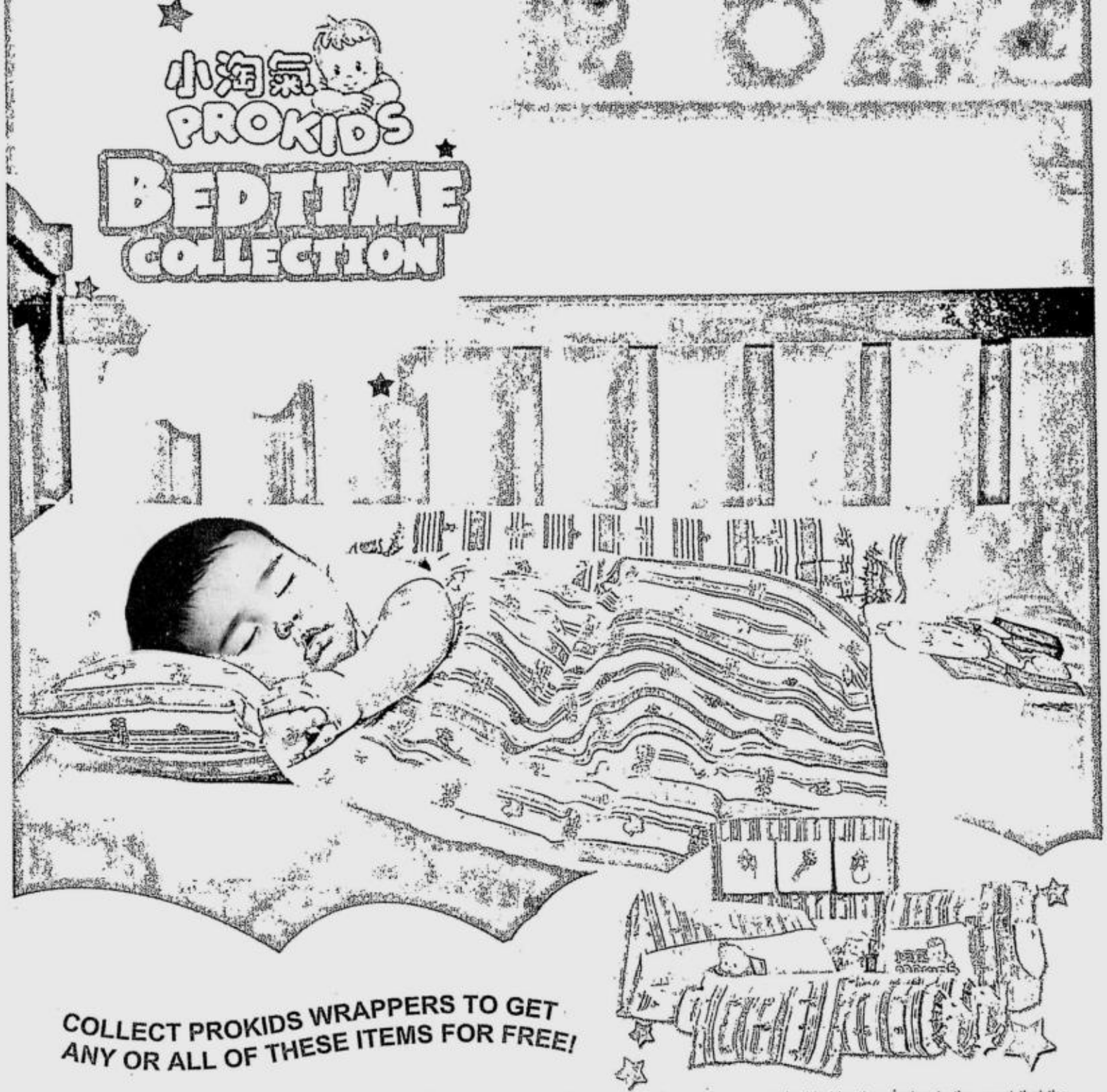

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Instituto Cervantes de Manila marks 15th year

JOSÉ "Pepe" Rodriguez, Instituto Cervantes de Manila director

FIESTA, THE ANNUAL FESTival of Spanish arts and culture; is especially memorable this year because Instituto Cervantes de Manila is marking its 15th year.

Instituto Cervantes, the cultural arm of the Spanish government was founded in 1991 to promote and teach Spanish, and to spread the culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries all over the globe. It is in over 65 centers in four continents.

The Instituto Cervantes de Manila, established in 1992, is among the most active of branches.

Now in a new location adjoining the historic Casino Español on TM Kalaw Extension, it boasts of a steadily growing student population of from 1,758 in 1997-98 to the last academic year reporting 6,142 enrollees.

Spanish is the mother tongue of over 400 million people and the official language of 21 countries. It is second only to English as the language of international communication. After Mandarin, English and Hindi, Spanish is the fourth most spoken language in the world.

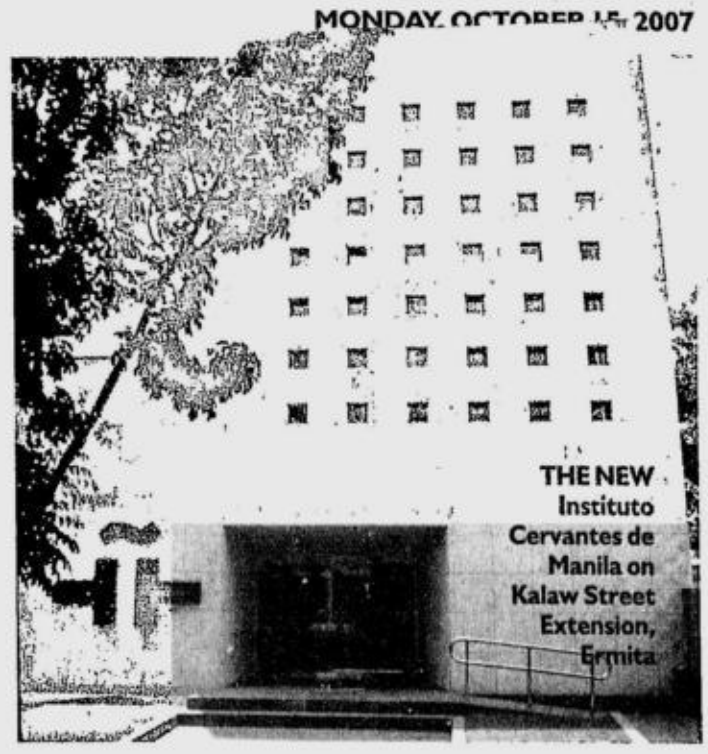
It is also second to English as the most studied language in the world.

In terms of economic development, Spain has the highest economic growth rate in the European Union. It is one of the Top 10 world economies, with a GDP of over US$1.1 trillion. It is the largest investor in Latin America.

Obviously, knowledge of Spanish is an advantage for one seeking gainful employment anywhere in the world.

Jose "Pepe" Rodriguez is the new director of Instituto Cervantes de Manila. A Spanish journalist who's well known to media circles in Manila, "Don Pepe"

INSTITUTO/ C2



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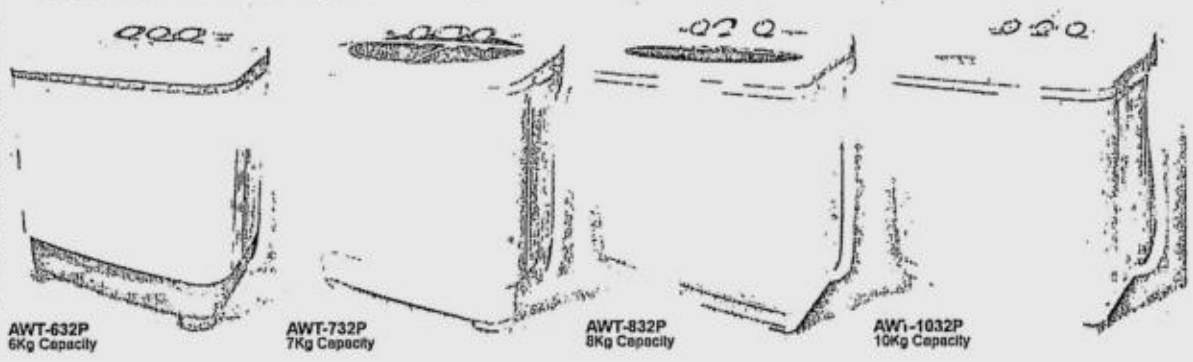

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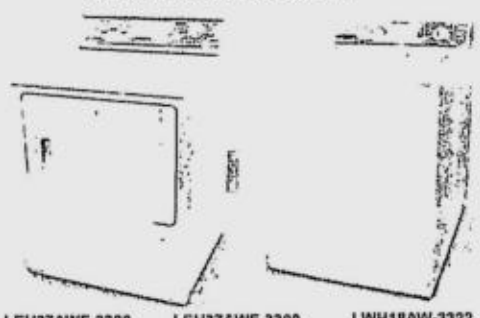

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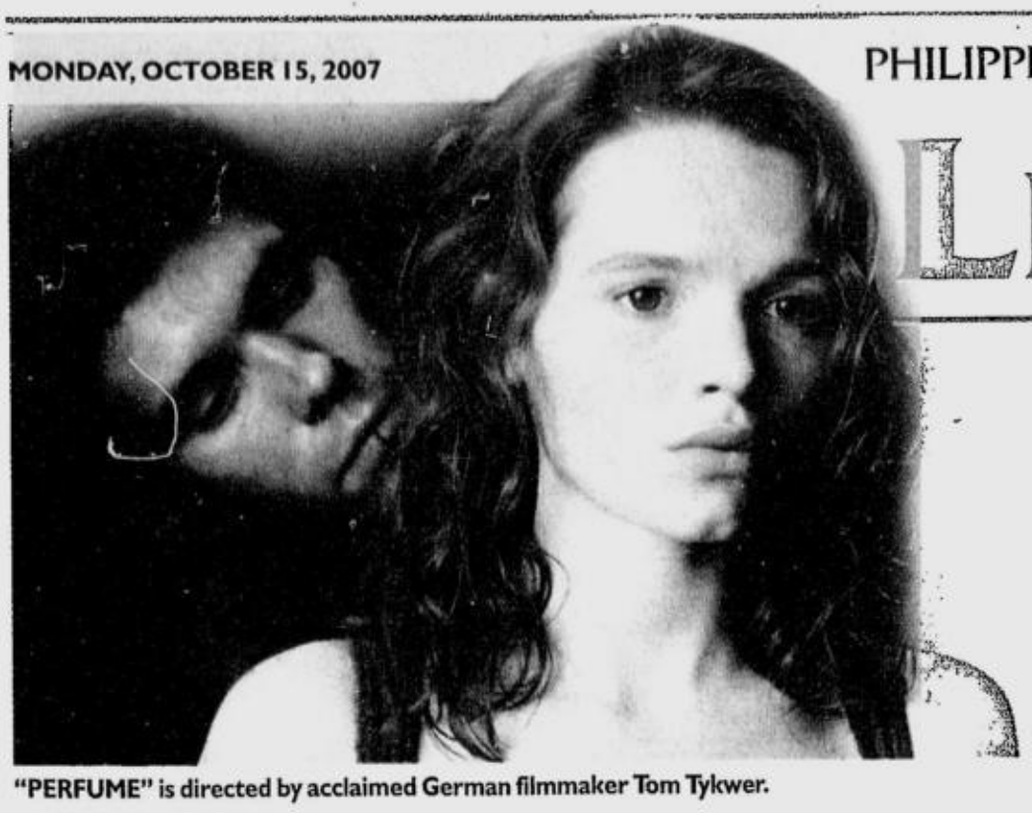


"PERFUME" is directed by acclaimed German filmmaker Tom Tykwer.

'Perfume' leaps from page to big screen

Patrick Süskind's best-selling novel has been brought to the big screen in all its seductive splendor

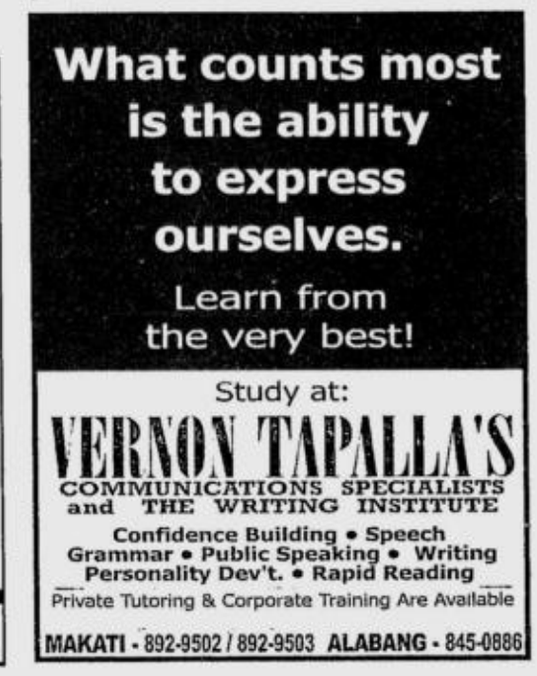
ONE OF THE MOST PASSIONATELY READ novels of our time, Patrick Süskind's best-seller "Perfume: The Story of a Murderer" has been brought to the big screen in all its seductive splendor by DreamWorks Pictures.

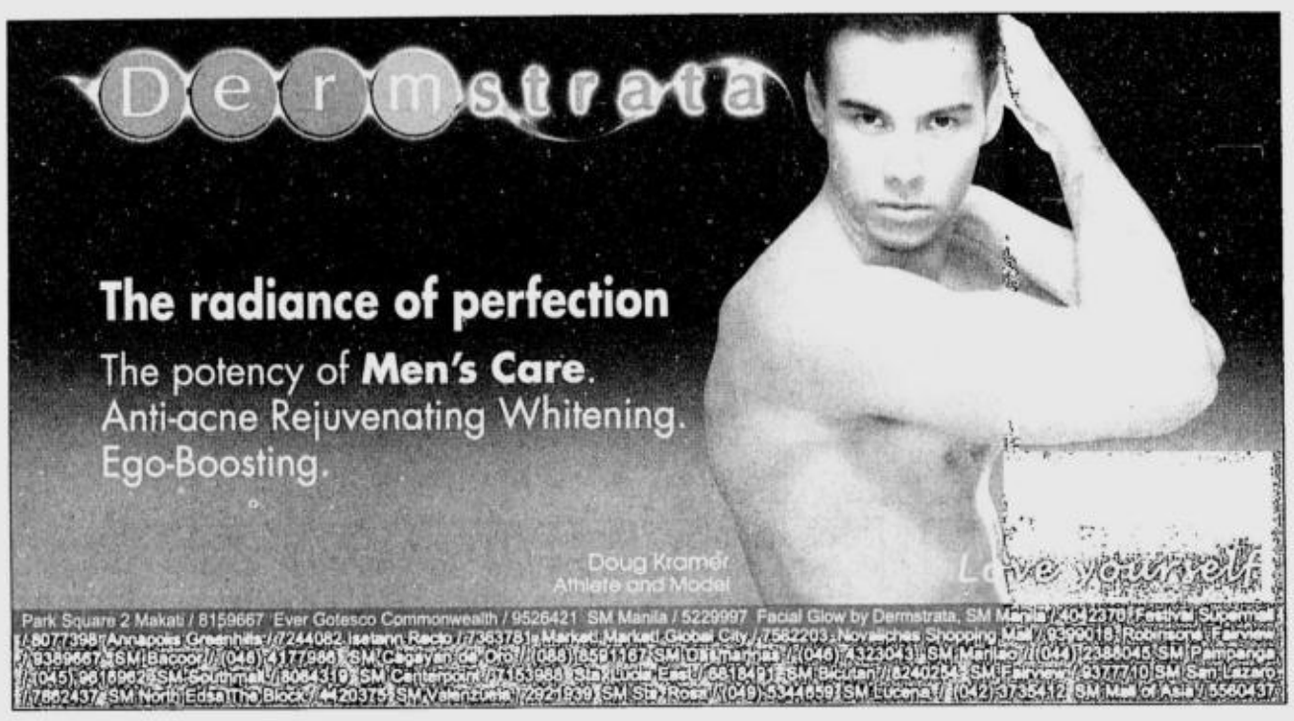
Directed by acclaimed German filmmaker Tom Tykwer ("Run Lola Run," "Paris je t'aime"), the controversial tale of a peculiar young man whose hyper-powerful sense of smell leads him to become a serial killer, will be shown exclusively at Ayala Malls Cinemas (Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3) starting Wednesday, Oct. 17.

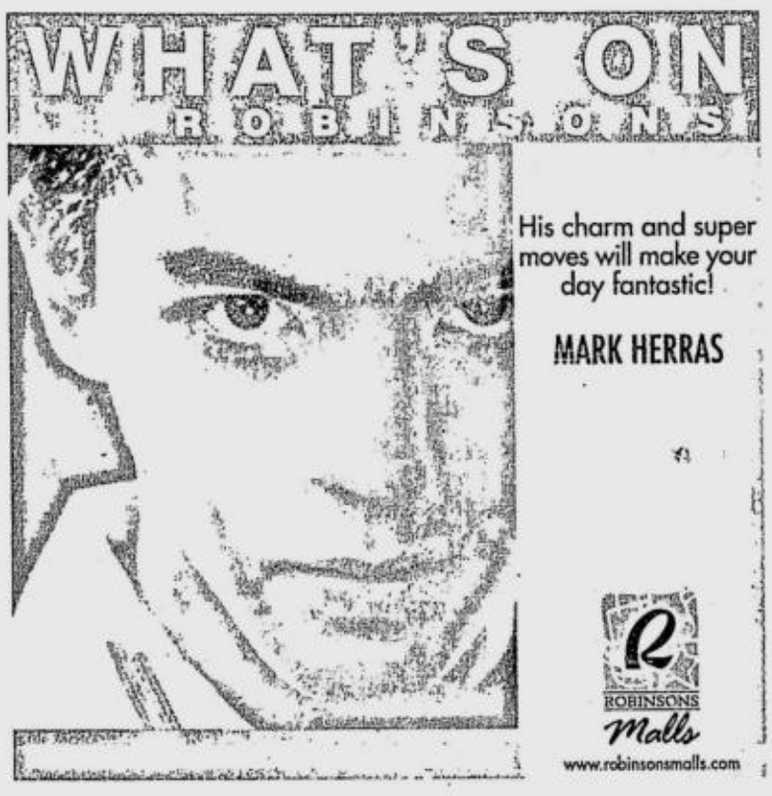
Süskind's book has sold over 15 million copies worldwide and been translated into 45 languages and continues to appear on "must-read" lists in publications such as Oprah and In Style.

The historical novel was also acknowledged by Nirvana's Kurt Cobain as his fa-

'PERFUME'/ D4







To have and to hold

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

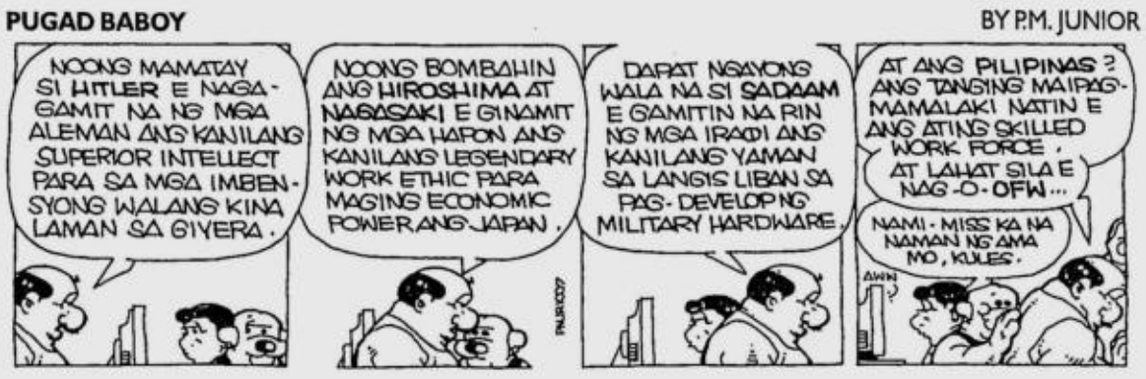
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

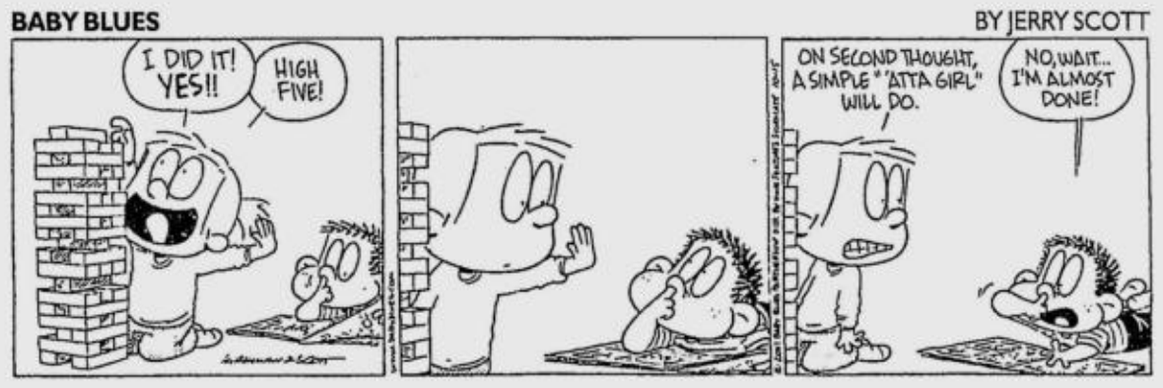


GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

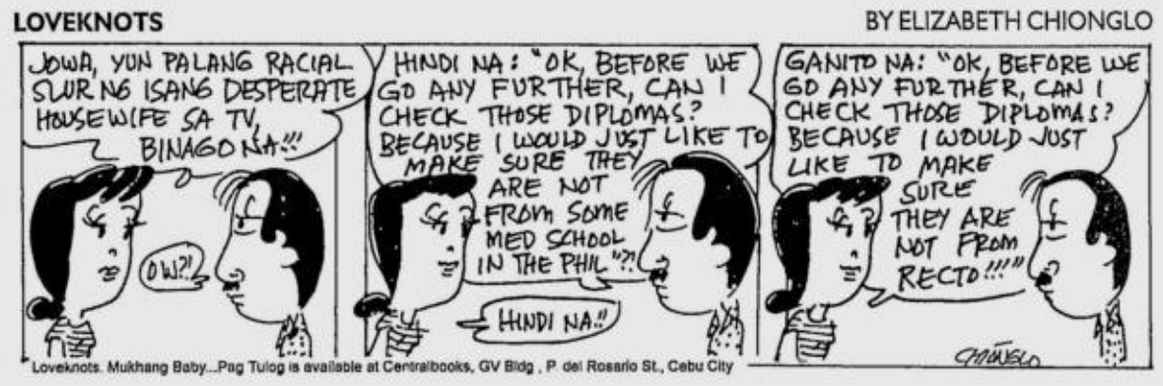


ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

LOVEKNOTS

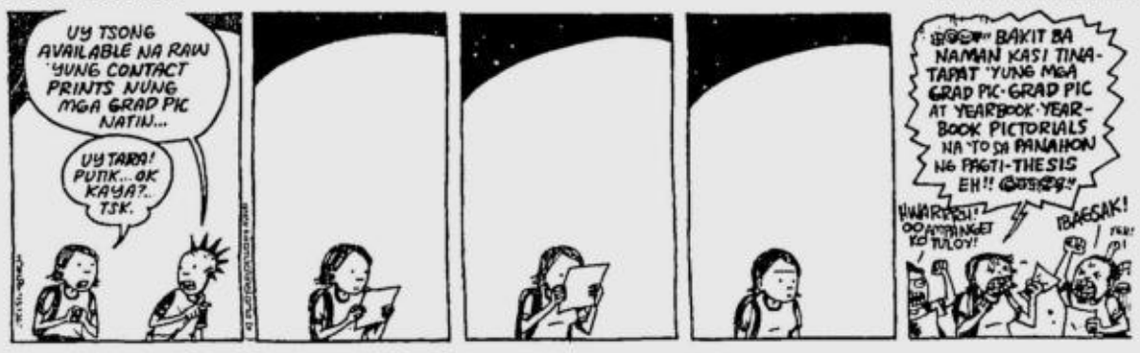
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



Loveknots. Mukhang Baby...Pag Tulog is available at Centralbooks, GV Bldg., P. del Rosario St., Cebu City

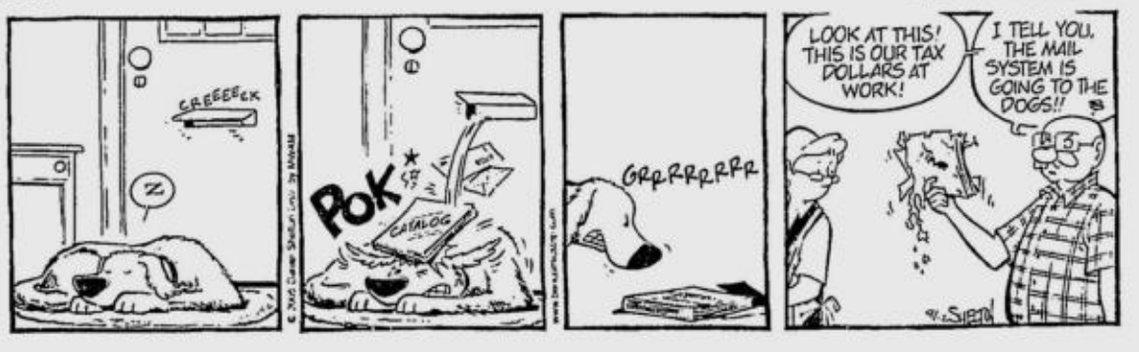
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

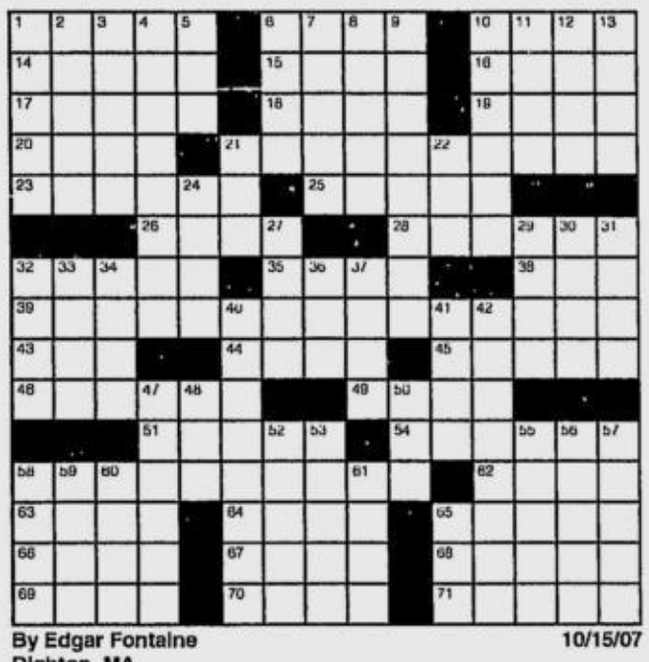


BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

10/15/07

ACROSS
1 Dish alternative
6 Split particle
10 Chef Wolfgang
14 Hub of The Hub
15 Actress Gilpin
16 Bailiwick
17 Pindar, for one
18 Wraths
19 Pig follower?
20 Links vehicle
21 City on the Bay of Biscay
23 __ was here (WWII graffito)
25 Pallid
26 Guinness or Waugh
28 What's added to injury
32 Bouquet tosser
35 Ah, yes!
38 Whiz lead-in
39 Ugo Tognazzi movie
43 Of the ear: pref.
44 Nary a one
45 Twosomes
46 Type of tiger
49 Pitcher's rubber
51 Get together
54 Fled to wed
58 Verdi opera
62 Bad financial situation
63 Highly excited
64 Spanish river
65 Do another lap?
66 __ and void
67 Supreme Court count
68 Organic compound
69 Editor's takeout sign
70 Mouth off
71 Shortstop Derek

DOWN
1 Use a stopwatch
2 Vietnamese attire
3 Tavern employee
4 Fellini film
5 Way in: abbr.
6 Samoan port
7 Latin land
8 Lunchbox goodies
9 Bad behavior
10 Communion plates
11 Caspian feeder
12 Top off four walls
13 Hardy cabbage
21 Caustic substance
22 Lady lobster
24 Cassini of fashion
27 Aloha in Genoa
29 Wrinkly citrus fruit
30 Malevolent stare
31 Polanski film
32 Amorphous amount
33 Be worthy of
34 PC image
36 Bask
37 Former spouses
40 Animates
41 October gem
42 Puccini opera
47 Make a bubbling sound
48 "SNL" alum Gasteyer
50 Poetic pasture
52 Shinbone
53 Deserves
55 Postulate
56 Slur over
57 Discourage
58 Touch down
59 Chills and fever
60 House of cookies?
61 Lower ten
65 British rule in the East

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	S	I	S	■	C	O	L	O	M	B	I	A
A	L	I	O	T	H	■	O	P	I	N	I	O	N	S
R	A	D	N	E	R	■	V	E	N	O	M	O	U	S
A	B	E	■	R	I	P	E	N	S	■	■	T	R	I
M	A	R	■	A	V	A	■	S	E	A	B	E	E	S
E	M	I	T	T	E	D	■	E	E	R	I	E	S	T
L	A	T	H	E	R	S	■	A	D	E	S	■	■	■
S	N	E	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	H	A	H	A
■	■	■	M	Y	R	A	■	E	N	R	O	B	E	S
P	A	P	E	R	E	R	■	R	E	O	P	E	N	S
O	N	A	S	S	I	S	■	D	T	S	■	T	R	E
U	N	I	■	■	S	H	E	E	T	S	■	T	Y	S
N	E	U	R	O	S	I	S	■	L	A	B	E	L	S
C	A	T	A	P	U	L	T	■	E	N	T	R	E	E
E	L	E	C	T	E	E	S	■	D	O	U	S	E	S

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10/15/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a droll sense of humor. You like to provoke others. You're dramatic and confident. Many of you are also controversial and outrageous. Because you're intelligent and knowledgeable, you sound like an authority in your field. (And generally are.) You speak with confidence and authority. In the year ahead, you will learn something valuable, perhaps through study.

Birthdate of: Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York; Emeril Lagasse, celebrity chef; Penny Marshall, director/actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Unexpected opportunities to travel could occur today. However, more likely, travel plans will be canceled or interrupted. Ditto for anything related to publishing, the media, education and the law. Patience.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Make friends with your bank account today. Find out exactly how much you owe on your credit cards. Something unpredictable—financially speaking—could occur today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Others will probably surprise you today. Or quite possibly, you're the one surprising them! Either way, relations with others are unpredictable today, so stay alert.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be prepared for interruptions on your job today, which might include computer crashes, power failures, fire drills or anything else unexpected. Just go with the flow.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Parents should be vigilant about children today. This is a slightly accident-prone day for them. Make sure you know where they are and what they're doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Things are quite surprising and unpredictable in your private life today. Minor breakages could occur at home today. Domestic arguments might break out. People feel rebellious and independent. (Run for cover.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is definitely an accident-prone day. It's very easy to be distracted by unexpected interruptions. Minor arguments also can break out. Keep your cool.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might find money today; you might lose money. Guard your possessions. Something having to do with your finances and the things you own is unpredictable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): By nature, you're quite independent. But today, you feel rebellious. You won't want others telling you what to do. (Don't quit your day job.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't worry if you feel restless or ill at ease today. It's a swiftly passing thing with the Moon. It's gone in 48 hours. Just do your best today and tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A friend will likely surprise you today. Be diplomatic talking to others. Someone could be too quick to take offense. (In fact, that person could be you.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Tread carefully around parents, bosses and VIPs today. "Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!" But if you push your luck, that's exactly what you might encounter.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

	5	4	3	8		2	6	
9					6			4
6					2			3
	7	9						6
4			9		3			7
2						1	9	
8			5					9
5			4					2
	9	1		6	8	4	7	

Difficulty Level ★

10/15

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	2	9	1	8	3	5	6	7
7	3	6	9	2	5	4	1	8
5	8	1	7	4	6	2	9	3
8	9	3	5	1	2	7	4	6
6	7	5	4	3	8	1	2	9
1	4	2	6	9	7	8	3	5
9	6	8	2	5	4	3	7	1
2	5	7	3	6	1	9	8	4
3	1	4	8	7	9	6	5	2

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/14

SET and costumes of "Mulan" are by Gino Gonzales.

Heavy, uneven 'Mulan'

By Walter Ang
Contributor

Tanghalang Pilipino's children's musical feels like two different shows at the same time: one for kids and one for adults

A STARK WHITE STAGE WITH three scarlet arches greets audiences in Tanghalang Pilipino's production of "Mulan," a new Tagalog musical version of the story popularized by the Disney animated movie a few years back.

The simplicity of the acting space provides the perfect canvas for the rainbow colors that soon fills it via set and costume designer Gino Gonzales' highly textured outfits. The exaggerated shapes and cushioned fabrics fill the costumes with a life of their own. Animé-inspired hairpieces in crazy shapes as well as wiggling ornaments and ribbons are also fun touches.

The actors have makeup designed by Dennis Tan that evoke Chinese opera masks, while the deities, Jade Emperor and Empress Wang Mu, are provided larger-than-life masks that tower over the actors' heads.

With enlarged hand extensions and their faces showing through the costumes' "chest," this is a great design that recalls our very own *higantes* of Angono and the costumes used by "The Lion King" director Julie Taymor in her production of the opera "Oedipus Rex" in Japan.

The solid-red set pieces are life-size Chinese paper cuttings with the shapes and outlines of household furniture and landscapes intricately cut out from delicate sheets of paper (although plywood is probably the material used).

Director Dennis Marasigan counters these massive motifs by having the cast perform in stylized movement (also inspired by Chinese opera), while choreographer Denisa Reyes provides graceful yet powerful action sequences that incorporate wushu martial arts.

Bong Cabrera as a ballerina soldier is particularly hilarious. Marasigan also provides moments of tension and excitement for the audience by having enemy soldiers attack Mulan's camp from the back of the theater.

Zany elements

These extreme and zany elements are everything you would expect a children's musical to have. It is a wonder, then, why the themes explored by librettist Rody Vera and composer Jed Balsamo are executed in such a heavy and uneven tone.

The poem on which different versions of Mulan's story have been inspired is a rich source of virtues for storytelling: filial piety, social obligations, patriotism, sacrifice, team effort, gender roles. For this 90-minute children's musical, it proves too rich.

With what seemed an appropriate theme for children to learn from, Vera starts with the classic case of boys versus girls, where his two deities fight over why men like to wage war so much.

He supports this by having Mulan's parents wish for a boy (they get Mulan instead, due to intervention by Empress Wang Mu); scenes of Mulan being taught to use a sword by her father; and a matchmaking segment with the town's last available bachelor, whom Mulan promptly pummels.

However, his narrative soon does flying kicks and goes off into the weariness and loneliness that sets in during war, though this segment is beautifully illuminated by lighting designer Jonjon Villareal.

Villareal showcases the passage of time and distance with effective transition from sharp yellow desert to cold dreary blue mountain terrain. Soon, plot points introduced in the beginning lose their follow-through, and those revealed in the second half are denied the luxury of a proper buildup.

Hauntingly beautiful

Balsamo's music, while imaginatively using instruments from Chinese opera, a sense of loneliness throughout. He gives Mulan an elegy when she has to leave her family, which Mayen Estrañero sings with much bristle and brio, and follows it with a hauntingly beautiful threnody, "Gusto Ko Nang Umuwi," when she and her fellow soldiers hit the 10-year mark of fighting the enemy.

These songs that pine and mourn are aligned note for note with Vera's desire to explore vulnerability and realism. But wouldn't a marching ditty or a jolly fraternal jingle or even a bouncy ballad about secret crushes have been a little more ... fun?

The yin of this musical's exposition doesn't quite match the yang of its denouement. The production feels like two different shows: one for children and one for adults. The production design and makeup are perfect for young audiences. The stylized movement and choreography can go either way.

But while the themes and music do have potential, Vera and Balsamo's material suggests the makings of a darker adult romance musical—something they can further develop.

E-mail the author at waltzang@yahoo.com

MAYEN Estanero (above and left) as Mulan

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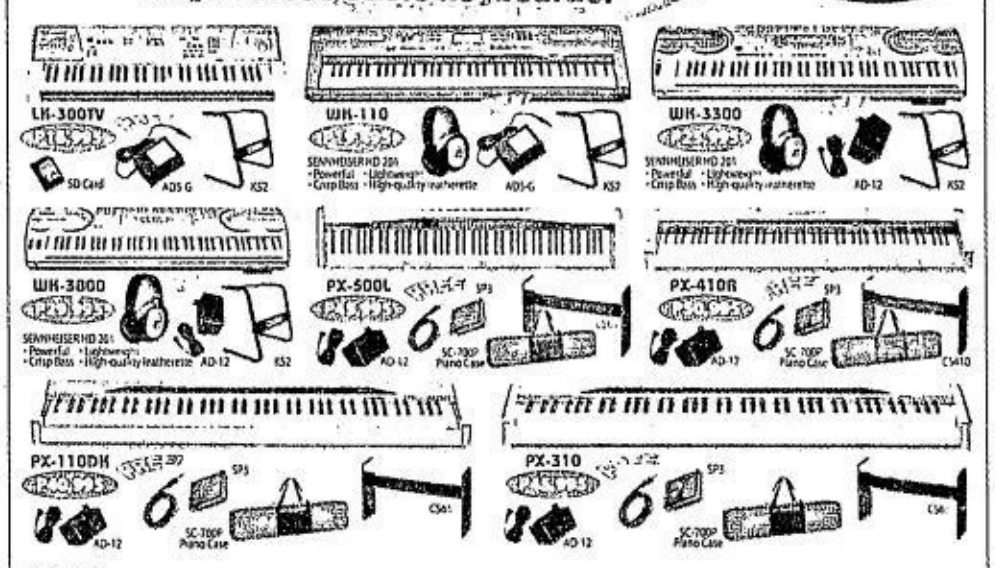

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'Trio' features ballet and music collaboration

ROBERT Atchison and Olga Dudnik

A VIOLINIST. A PIANIST. A BALlerina. Three premiere performers hailing from three different countries pool their talents for a rare music and dance showcase at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Little Theater on Oct. 17 and 18, 7:30 p.m.

"Music, Trio, Magic" brings together English violinist Robert Atchison, Ukrainian-born pianist Olga Dudnik and Filipino prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde. Ballet Manila, of which Macuja-Elizalde is principal dancer and artistic director, will also perform.

The concert—presented by the Manila Broadcasting Company, ING Private Banking, Ballet Manila and CCP—will feature Ludwig van Beethoven's Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24, for Violin and Piano; Maurice Ravel's Tzigane: Concert Rhapsody for Violin and Piano; and Edward Elgar's Sonata in E Minor, Op. 82, for Violin and Piano.

Lisa Macuja collaborates with English violinist Robert Atchison, Ukrainian-born pianist Olga Dudnik

LISA Macuja-Elizalde

A new ballet piece has been especially commissioned to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of British composer Sir Edward Elgar. Titled "Sonata," set to Elgar's music, the dance is choreographed by Ballet Manila co-artistic director Osias Barroso.

Robert Atchison was born in London and studied music from a young age. He has given concerto performances and recitals in the US, South America, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Ireland. He is a violinist with the critically acclaimed London Piano Trio, and tours regularly with them throughout the UK, Germany, Spain, the Far East.

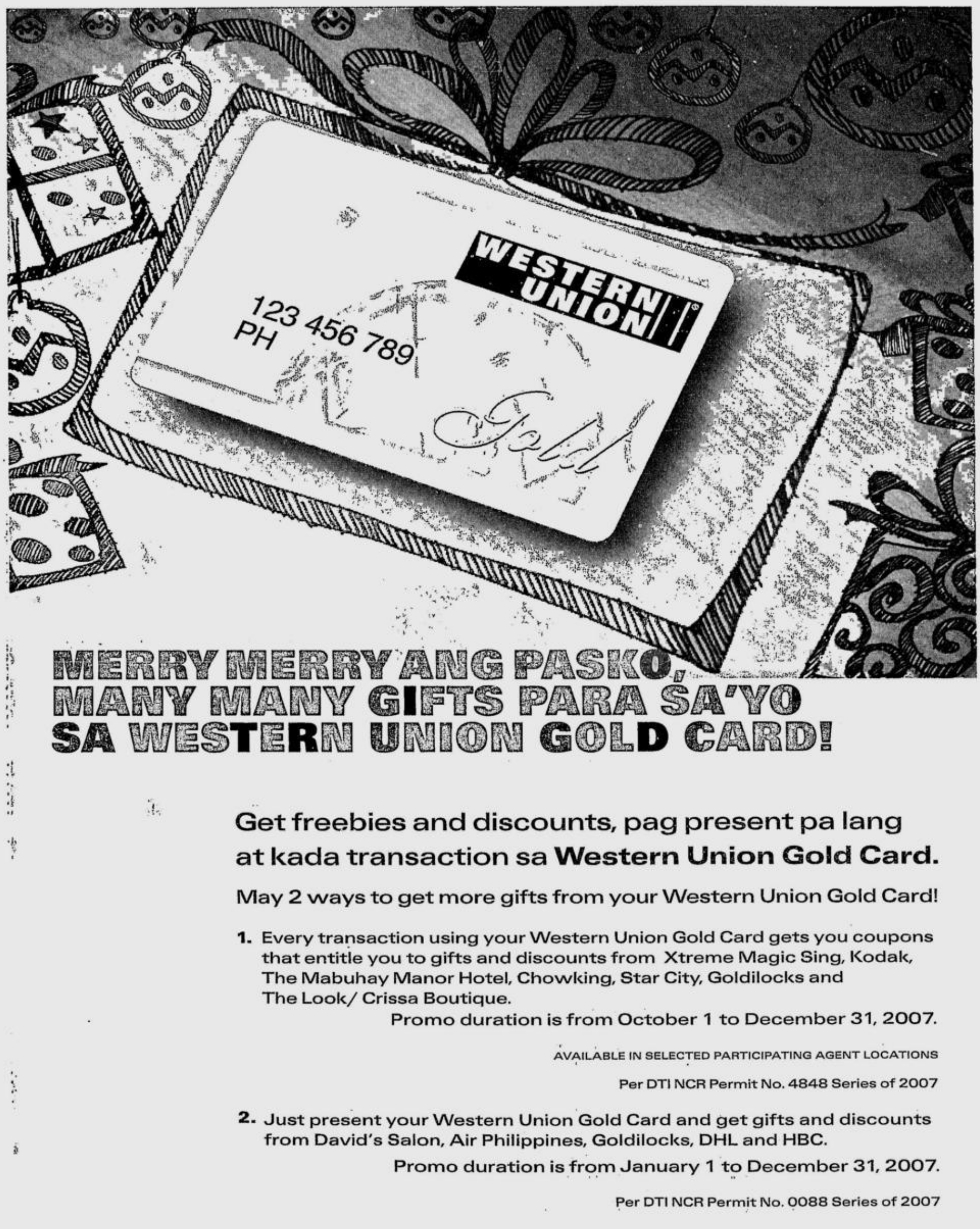
Atchison was recently appointed as artistic director of the new Gibbs Festival at Danbury, Essex, which will have its inaugural season next year. He is also artistic director of the Certosa International Concert Series, Capri, Italy.

Dudnik was born in the Ukraine to a family of professional musicians. From an early age, she held concerts in the most prestigious musical venues in the Soviet Union. She studied at the Special Music School for Gifted Children, where she received the Gold Medal for Excellence at 16.

After further studies in Israel and London, Dudnik joined the staff of the Guildhall School of Music and has been combining a teaching career with a busy schedule of piano recitals, concerto and ensemble appearances across Europe, and recordings.

Macuja graduated with top honors from the Leningrad Choreographic School in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1984 and was invited to join the Kirov Ballet, where she was the soloist in such productions as "Giselle" and "Don Quixote."

For inquiries on the concert, contact Ballet Manila (tel. nos. 5255967, 4000292 or 404-3086; e-mail info@balletmanila.ph; visit www.balletmanila.ph); or call the CCP Marketing Department (8321125 loc. 1806), the CCP Box Office (8323704), Ticket World at National Book Store (8919999), or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.



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TYKWER says the lead character, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, is a "strange, introverted central character with an exceptional way of perceiving and experiencing the world."

'Perfume'. . .

From page D1

vorite book and the inspiration for the band's 1993 song "Scentless Apprentice."

"How could the story of an eccentric 18th-century murderer fascinate so many readers to such an extent?" asks director Tykwer. "They are universal themes—the desire for recognition, to be loved, to be seen, to be 'somebody,' and the idea that there's a genius hiding in everyone, and if it were unleashed, the world would be stunned! It's a myth we all carry within ourselves."

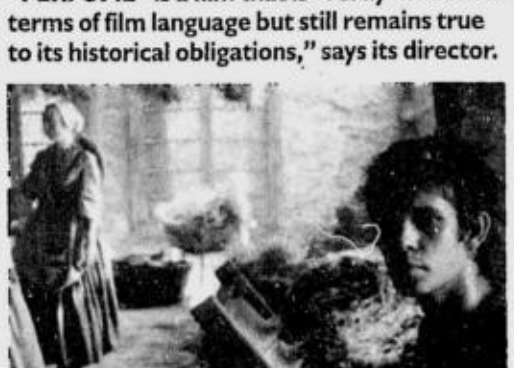
As the trio of screenwriters—Tykwer, Bernd Eichinger and Andrew Birkin—began their collaboration on the script, they gained even greater admiration for Süskind's rendering of his complex central character.

"I think the greatest challenge that we were facing in the writing process was how to make the lead character Jean-Baptiste Grenouille work," says Tykwer. "He's a strange, introverted central character with an exceptional way of perceiving and experiencing the world."

"Since Grenouille is a man of very few words, we didn't have the luxury of giving him the usual self-revelatory dialogue that a normal character would have," explains Eichinger. "He's a perfectionist, obsessed with creating the ultimate love potion, so to speak. A fragrance that, when possessed, will bring love and adulation to its owner. Hinging a film on a character like Grenouille breaks every rule in the screenwriting textbook. He has no concept that he belongs to the human race. He is amoral. So it's not a question of identifying with him, but, rather, of understanding his motives."

"My aim from the outset was to make a film that was really modern in terms of film language but still remained true to its historical obligations, in the same way the novel's modern narrative is never sacrificed to its historical accuracy," says Tykwer.

"PERFUME" is a film that is "really modern in terms of film language but still remains true to its historical obligations," says its director.



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F4 star to shoot in Batanes

TAIWANESE SUPERSTAR KEN Zhu, member of the wildly popular quartet F4, is expected to arrive in the country this week. He will stay for 10 days to work on "Batanes," an independent film opposite Iza Calzado.

Upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Air-

F4 STAR/ E4

Great songs for Gilbert

By Pocholo Concepcion
PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

ROMY POSADAS warmed up on the electric piano with "Windmills of Your Mind" and "Two for the Road" —setting off a sentimental mood for the recent benefit gig for Gilbert Perez at Merk's.

The dinner show was held to raise funds for the former newspaper art director and magazine lifestyle columnist.

Gilbert is suffering from sciatica, a painful offshoot of a disease that attacks the spine. He just had a gall bladder operation as well.

There to cheer him up were old friends led by Celia Diaz-Laurel who was escorted by son Cocoy. Celia and Gilbert had gone to school together at the UP College of Fine Arts.

First up on stage was M-Gage, a young R&B vocal quintet managed by film director Maryo J. de los Reyes. The group did a snappy Beatles medley and one Tagalog ballad, "Tanging Ikaw."

Classically-trained tenor Jonathan Badon sang a succession of well-applauded numbers—"Lullaby of Broadway," "The Way You Look Tonight," "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" among them—from memorable films.

Cocoy kept the momentum with his own take on Broadway and film soundtracks, starting with "Some Enchanted Evening." He prefaced "La Vie en Rose" as one of Gilbert's favorite theme songs.

Lorli Villanueva, a stage/film/TV actress now based in New York City as a teacher, said she was in town to help build a church in Iloilo and heard that dear friend Gilbert was sick, prompting her to gather other friends for this fundraiser.

Lorli's vocals tended to swerve, but her renditions of "Send in the Clowns," "Autumn Leaves," "All the Things You Are," "Kailangan Kita," "Usahay," "I'll Be Seeing You," "What I Did For Love" and "Kulay Rosas" (Pete Lacaba's Tagalog translation of "La Vie en Rose") had dramatic flair.

"I didn't know Lorli was a singer," said a surprised Jullie Yap Daza.

At certain points during the performances, Gilbert was caught shedding tears—visibly touched by the presence of friends, and great songs rushing back, if only for a few fleeting moments.

GILBERT Perez with close friend from college, Celia Diaz-Laurel

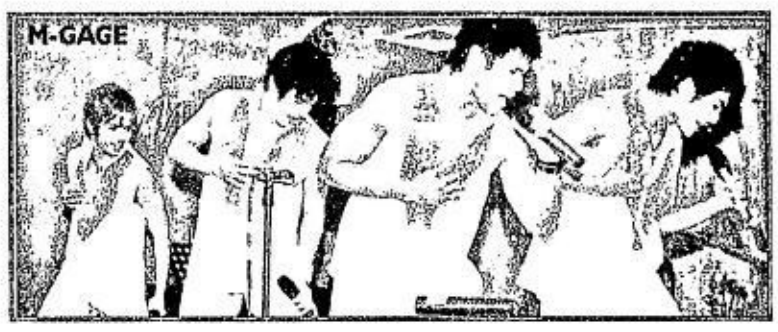
THE GANG'S all here (from L, standing): Natalie Palanca, Josie Darang, Mary Ann Salcedo, Jullie Yap-Daza; (seated): Resty Vergara and Gilbert Perez

JONATHAN Badon

COCOY Laurel

FIDES Cuyugan-Asencio

LORLI Villanueva



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Also available at the following select provincial dealers: Cellcom Tacloban, Electroworld Cebu, Phone Patch Zamboanga, Pick and Carry Dumaguete, Saver's Group of Companies Tarlac, Tarlac Mac Enterprises, Inc., Technomart Cagayan and Technomart Davao.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINEPLEX

1 (DOLBY) STURDUST
2 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) NO RESERVATIONS
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) WEDDING DAZE
RESIDENT EVIL 3

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (SOUND DIGITAL EX) ONE PERCENT FULL
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 6433994

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 STURDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

THEATRES
SM Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600-3025

1 (DOLBY) ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5271

1 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 (DOLBY) ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) WEDDING DAZE
2 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 (DTS) KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (DOLBY DTS) NO RESERVATIONS
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL) RETRIBUTION
6 (DOLBY DIGITAL) STURDUST
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL) CHUCK & LARRY
8 (DOLBY DIGITAL) I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 (DOLBY DIGITAL) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) ONE PERCENT FULL

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Ana, Marikina City tel. 9341527

1 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 (DOLBY) ONE PERCENT FULL
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
3 HOST
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 RETREBUTION

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4443346)

1 SINKING JAPAN
2 SKINWALKERS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY) NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DTS) SHOOT EM UP
4 WHITE NOISE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 (DOLBY) STURDUST
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 (DTS) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) HOST
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) RISE BLOOD HUNTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 I FALLEN FOR YOU
3 (DOLBY) LAST LEGION
4 (DTS) ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Planet) tel (044) 795.3320

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 HOST
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) ONE PERCENT FULL
2 KALAPATI SA GABI
3 KANDUNGAN
4 (DTS) DISTURBIA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
2 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
3 (DTS) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
4 HOST
5 CHUCK & LARRY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ALIPIN NG ALIW
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 • THX
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

2 STARDUST
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

3 RETRIBUTION
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 NO RESERVATIONS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 WEDDING DAZE
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

8 indieSine: STILL LIFE
1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45

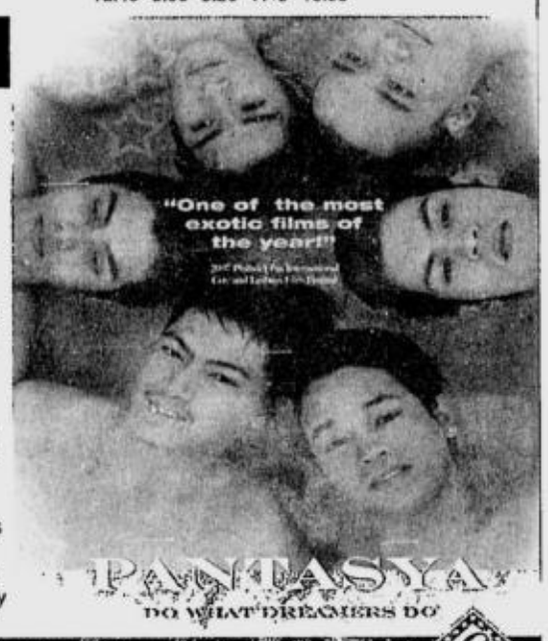
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

indieSine presents...

PANTASYA
another Dante Mendoza film

A digital feature has five episodes that all deal with wild gay fatasies involving men in uniform. It starts with "Biyaho", a jilted taxi driver and his jealous passenger who find comfort in each other's lovesick arms. The second episode is "Linya", about a lonely homeowner whose phone conks out. Two handsome repairmen arrive and they end up in a dizzying threesome. Next is "Laro", about four basketball players who are taking a shower in the locker room after an intense game, and a shy guy who takes a peek at them and later joins in the fun."Bilis" is about a hunky delivery boy in a hurry who delivers pizza to a bored yuppie. They get instantly attracted upon seeing each other. Last episode is "Bantay", about a horny security guard in the graveyard shift. He sees two lovers lighting and the other one finds solace in the arms of the easy going guard



showing on OCTOBER 17 to 23
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA

ERMITA

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

2 NO RESERVATIONS 12:00 2:00 4:00
WEDDING DAZE 6:10 8:00 10:00

3 STARDUST
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 RETRIBUTION
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST

1 CHUCK & LARRY 12:00 2:30
WEDDING DAZE 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 STARDUST
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 EVENING
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 DECEMBER BOYS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 RETRIBUTION
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:30 9:00

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

NOVALICHES

1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PIONEER

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

2 STARDUST
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 8:55

STA. ROSA
Ticket Price: P180 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 STARDUST
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

LIPA
(043) 757-3665 / P90 (043) 312-5870

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

DASMARINAS
(046) 416-1332

1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

IMUS
(046) 8763883 / 477-8818

1 STARDUST
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

ANGELES
Ticket Price: P90 / P70 (045) 8922348

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 SIGNOS
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

TARLAC
(045) 982-1729

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS
Ticket Price: P90 / P70 (046) 875-1822

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 THE HOST
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 NO RESERVATIONS
6 SHOOT 'EM UP

BACOLOD
(034) 441-5455

1 DAYWATCH
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM

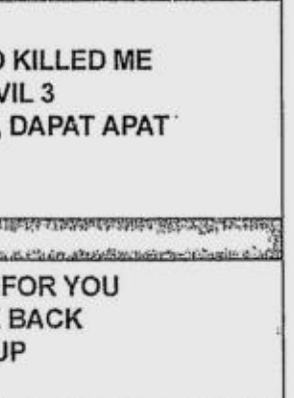
ILOILO
(033) 336-8070

1 DAYWATCH
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 SHOOT 'EM UP
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Ligaw Liham

Sometime in the 70's, in a small town in Negros, the post office simply stops its operations. No one knew about this except for the postman and his caretaker. When Nor, finds out about this secret, he finds an opportunity to sway to the dance of love when he assumesthe identity of another man. Nor reads the letters hidden in an old warehouse and takes over the pen of Karen's husband who was working in Saigon. Soon after, a correspondence between Nor and Karen takes place. And Nor finds himself truly falling in love.

showing at Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod OCTOBER 10 to 16



POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41

DOLBY DIGITAL

KUNGFU FIGHTER PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50,8:00	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R13 1:50,4:00,6:10,8:20	NO RESERVATIONS G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50
STARDUST G 12:15,2:50,5:25,8:00	WEDDING DAZE R13 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	STARDUST G 2:15,4:50,7:25,10:00

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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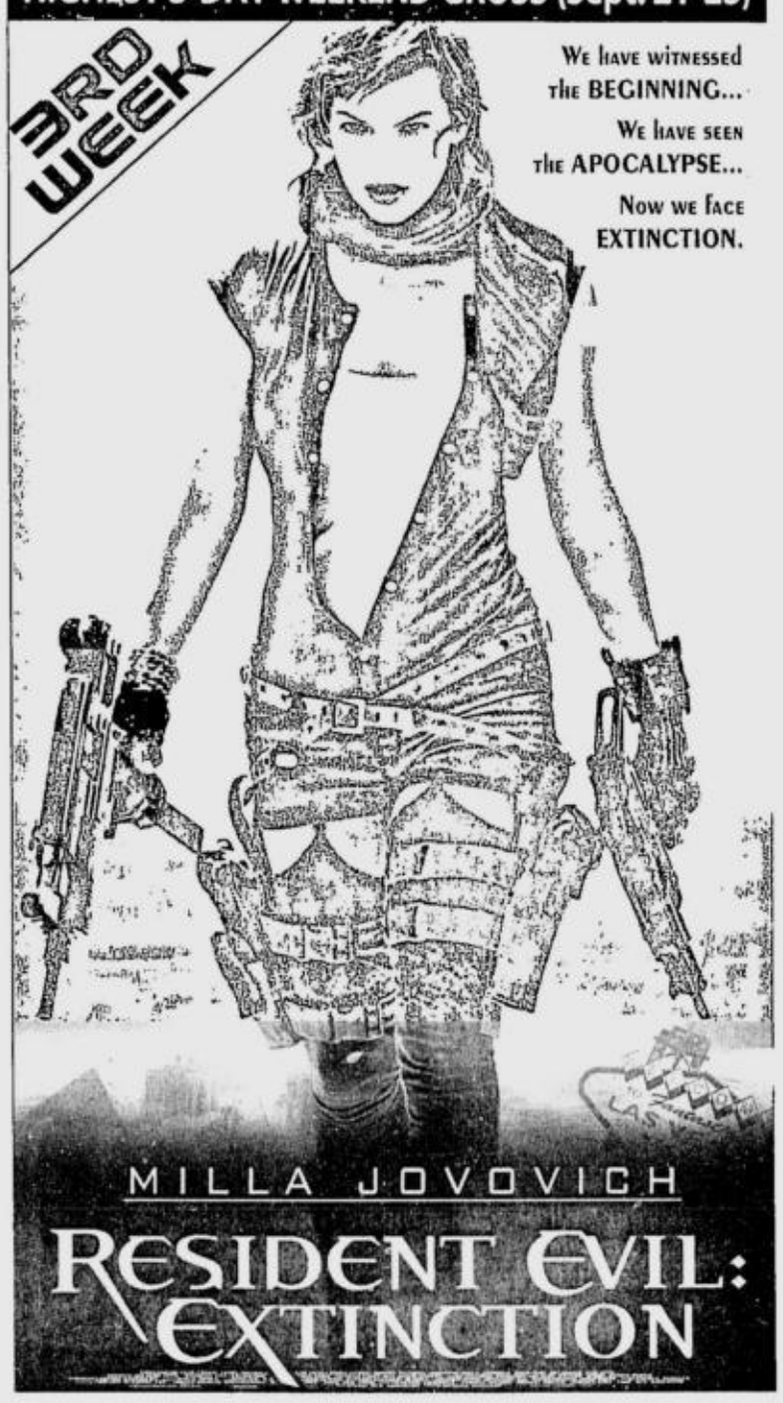
$24,168,865
HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)



MTRCB PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

2ND WEEK

THE ORIGINAL GANG from "KUNG FU HUSTLE" is BACK
MORE ACTION. MORE SPECIAL EFFECTS. MORE LAUGHS.

KUNG FU FIGHTER

Julia says she came at a 'kinder time' in the biz

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA—Last year Julia Roberts presented the American Cinematheque award to pal George Clooney. This time it was her turn to receive the honor. The smile, the laugh and the looks that have become familiar to movie-goers were on full display Friday as Roberts was recognized for her contributions to the film industry. She said she came along at the right time to turn into an A-list actress. "I think I came along at a kinder time in the business," Roberts said. "There weren't so many media outlets. You could really cultivate your work a little more gently." *AP*

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
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gatewaymall.com.ph

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APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:10 / 4:50 / 9:30		
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:30	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20	KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	RETRIBUTION 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	NO RESERVATION 2:30 / 7:10	STARDUST 12:00 / 2:55 / 5:50 / 8:45

Ali Mall Cinemas
DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

RETRIBUTION 12:20 R4 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40
KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:50

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.araneta coliseum.com

PBA GAMES
October 17, Wednesday
4:35 Sta Lucia vs Purefoods 7:20 Talk N Text vs Alaska

ERIK SANTOS.. SOLO AT THE COLISEUM
October 19, Friday, 8pm

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

CHAPTER 1: From the Highlands of Scotland to the streets of New York, he fought his first battle and won.
CHAPTER 2: With the help of his powerful mentor, he saved the world from evil.
CHAPTER 3: He is faced with an enemy from the past whose sole purpose is to eliminate him and become the only immortal.

AT THE CINEMAS
TFX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 KUNG FU FIGHTER	2 STARDUST	3 RETRIBUTION	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
GLORIETTA 4	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS	3 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 WEDDING DAZE	5 THE 11TH HOUR	6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	7 HARSH TIMES
GREENBELT 1	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT		2 STARDUST	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STARDUST		2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	
	3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	4 RETRIBUTION	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 STARDUST	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4
MARKET! MARKET!	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT		2 RETRIBUTION	
	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 STARDUST	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER	
TRINOMA	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 RETRIBUTION	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 RETRIBUTION	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	7 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	

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AT THE MALLS
Ayala
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta — BPI Appliance Madness
September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center

Greenbelt — Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit
October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby

Alabang Town Center — The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band
October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — BPI Automadness Exhibit
October 11 to 14; Paseos

Market! Market! — Nescafe: Soundskool
October 13; Activity Center

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids
August - December 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com

Ayala Museum — HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins
September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

TriNoma — Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino
October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center

EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE

OPENS OCTOBER 17
AT GLORIETTA 4 and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

From the director of "RUN LOLA RUN"
Based on the best selling novel

PERFUME
THE STORY OF A MURDERER

"GENIUS. I LOVE THE STORY."
Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES

"SENSUOUS."
Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · TriNoma

BACK SOON ON THE BIG SCREEN
Cynthia Nixon, left, holds back Sarah Jessica Parker, center, who is hitting Chris Noth with a wedding bouquet in a scene from "Sex in the City:The Movie," coming soon. REUTERS

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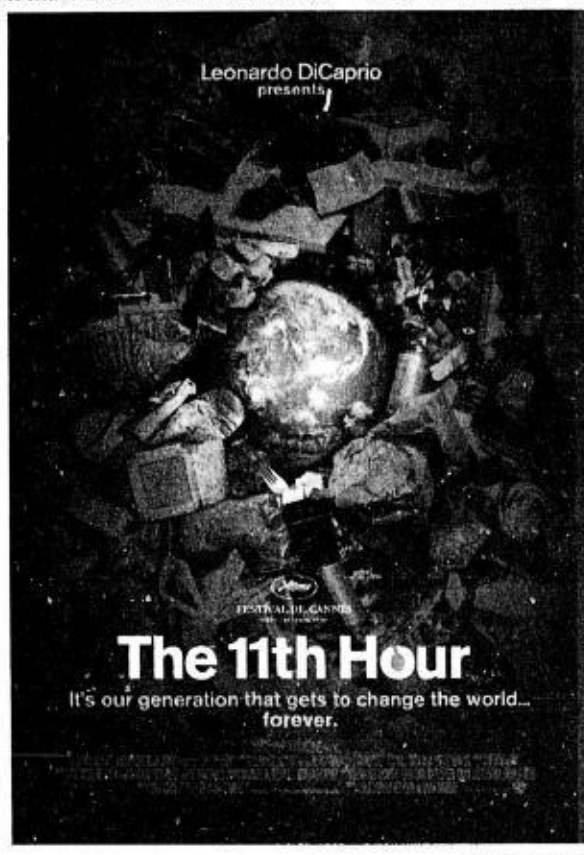

AND
join forces in this environmental campaign

The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

NOW SHOWING AT SM NORTH EDSA

Screening Schedules:
October 17 (Wednesday) at Mall of Asia
October 24 (Wednesday) at Megamall
October 31 (Wednesday) at Manila
November 7 (Wednesday) at Sta. Mesa

Media Partners:

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250 — 1:00 PM • 2:30 PM • 7:00 PM • 8:30 PM
T-REX 3D Admission Price: P250 — 4:00 PM
NASCAR Admission Price: P200 — 5:30 PM
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 RETRIBUTION
3 STARDUST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
PREMIERE CINEMA
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
CENTERSTAGE
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
STARDUST
CINEMA 2
RETRIBUTION
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 11TH HOUR
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 STARDUST
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 STARDUST
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 NO RESERVATIONS
9 KUNG FU FIGHTER
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 RETRIBUTION
12 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 DECEMBER BOYS
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 NO RESERVATIONS
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 STARDUST
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 RETRIBUTION
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ONE PERCENT FULL
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 RETRIBUTION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 1408
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 WEDDING DAZE
11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 SKINWALKERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 DAYWATCH
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8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SHOOT EM' UP
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5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 THE BRAVE ONE
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4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ONE PERCENT FULL

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 STARDUST
2 DECEMBER BOYS/SKINWALKERS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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1 RESIDENT EVIL
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4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 DAYWATCH
6 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 DAYWATCH
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 RESERVED
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 SKINWALKERS
3 STARDUST
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 SINKING OF JAPAN
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
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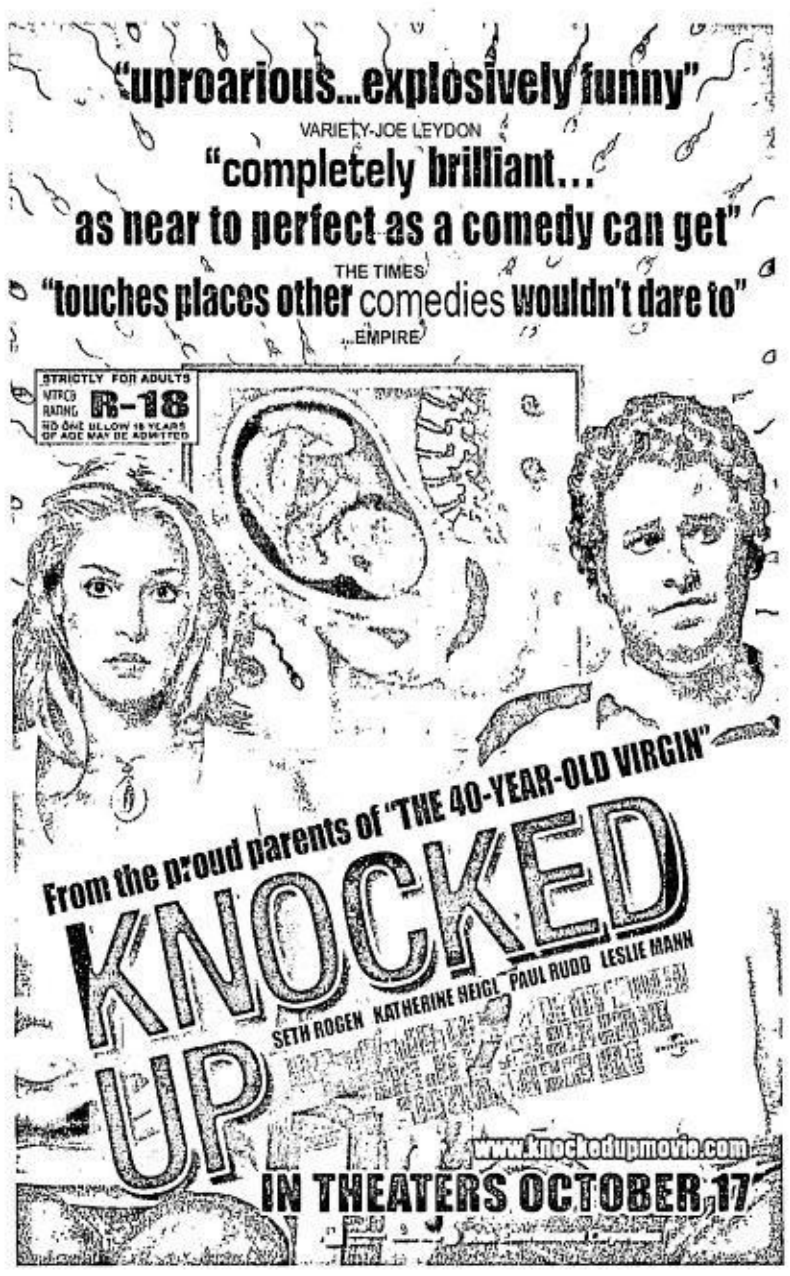

IZA Calzado

F4 star...

From page E1

port, Ken—Xi-Men in the hit television series "Meteor Garden"—will board a private jet to Batanes Island, according to director Adolf Alix Jr.

"He will be back in November to promote the movie," said Alix, who filmed the critically acclaimed "Kadin" on the same wind-swept island off the northernmost tip of Luzon.

Fisherman

Ken plays the role of a stranded fisherman from Taiwan. Iza will portray a Manila sales girl who relocates to Batanes, and is torn between Ken and an Ivatan portrayed by Joem Bascon.

In a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Saturday, Alix said the filming of "Batanes" began four days ago.

The main cast members—Iza, Joem, Sid Lucero, Coco Martin, Bembol Roco, Daria Ramirez, Julio Diaz, Mike Tan and Glaiza de Castro—are expected to arrive in Batanes on Sunday.

"Batanes," produced by Ignite Media, will be shown in local theaters starting Nov. 28. Alix co-directs "Batanes" with Dave Hukom, Ignite Media chief executive officer.

Tribute

In November, Alix will work on a twin-bill, "Manila," with Raya Martin ("Autohystoria," "Short Film about the Indio Nacional").

"Manila" is a tribute to Ishmael Bernal's "Manila by Night" and Lino Brocka's "Jaguar," Alix said.

The twin-bill, written by Ramon Sarmiento and co-produced by Bicycle Pictures and CIF Films, will run for 40 minutes each.

Alix's first film, "Donsol," is this year's Philippine representative to the Oscar Awards.

Marinel R. Cruz

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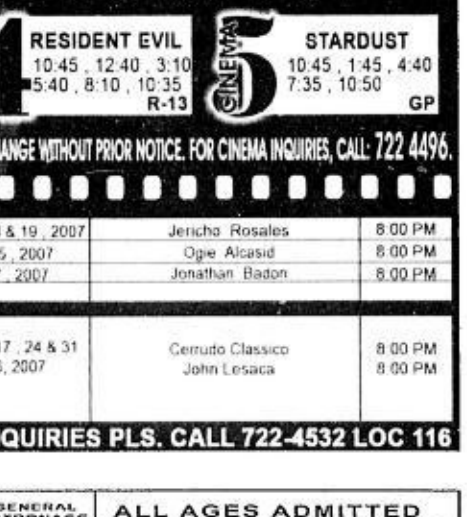

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Comedy is not dead

It's just 'fatigued,' says TV director Uro de la Cruz, because it isn't easy to make Filipinos laugh

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

DIREK Uro, right, coaches Wendell Ramos and Ogie Alcasid on the set of "Bubble."
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

AS FAR as "Bubble Gang" director Uro de la Cruz is concerned, comedy is alive and kicking, contrary to grim reports that have labeled sitcoms as an endangered genre in the TV landscape.

He insists: "The sitcom is not really dead. It's just comedy fatigue."

De la Cruz concedes that it's inevitable. "Sustaining a sitcom is hard. If it's about a family, the kids would grow up; the parents would grow old—in five years."

That's the edge of a gag show like "Bubble," which celebrates its 12th year this month.

"On 'Bubble,' there are no limits. We are free to do what we want. We can tackle politics this week, then do spoofs of TV shows or movies the following week. There's variety," he explains.

After a year of doing "Bubble," Uro realized he had stumbled on a comedic gold mine. "It was evident we were fulfilling a need for a regular comedy hour."

On their toes

Still, they're constantly on their toes. A gag show could lose viewers if the creative team becomes too complacent, he says.

"You could immediately capture Pinoy humor and, in a month or two, just as easily lose it. If you keep tickling the same spot, it's bound to become desensitized."

Making matters extra challenging, the Pinoy funny bone keeps jumping from one spot to another, he theorizes. "You have to keep looking for that spot of vulnerability."

One rule he lives by is to never "isolate" himself—or his crew— from the masses.

He urges them, "Go to the barbershop. Ride the tricycle. Interact with the people." A valuable tip for wannabes: "Don't try to imitate American shows. Don't force your idea of humor on the viewers. Don't look down on your audience."

Bottom line, De la Cruz says, is constant innovation.

COMEDY/ F2

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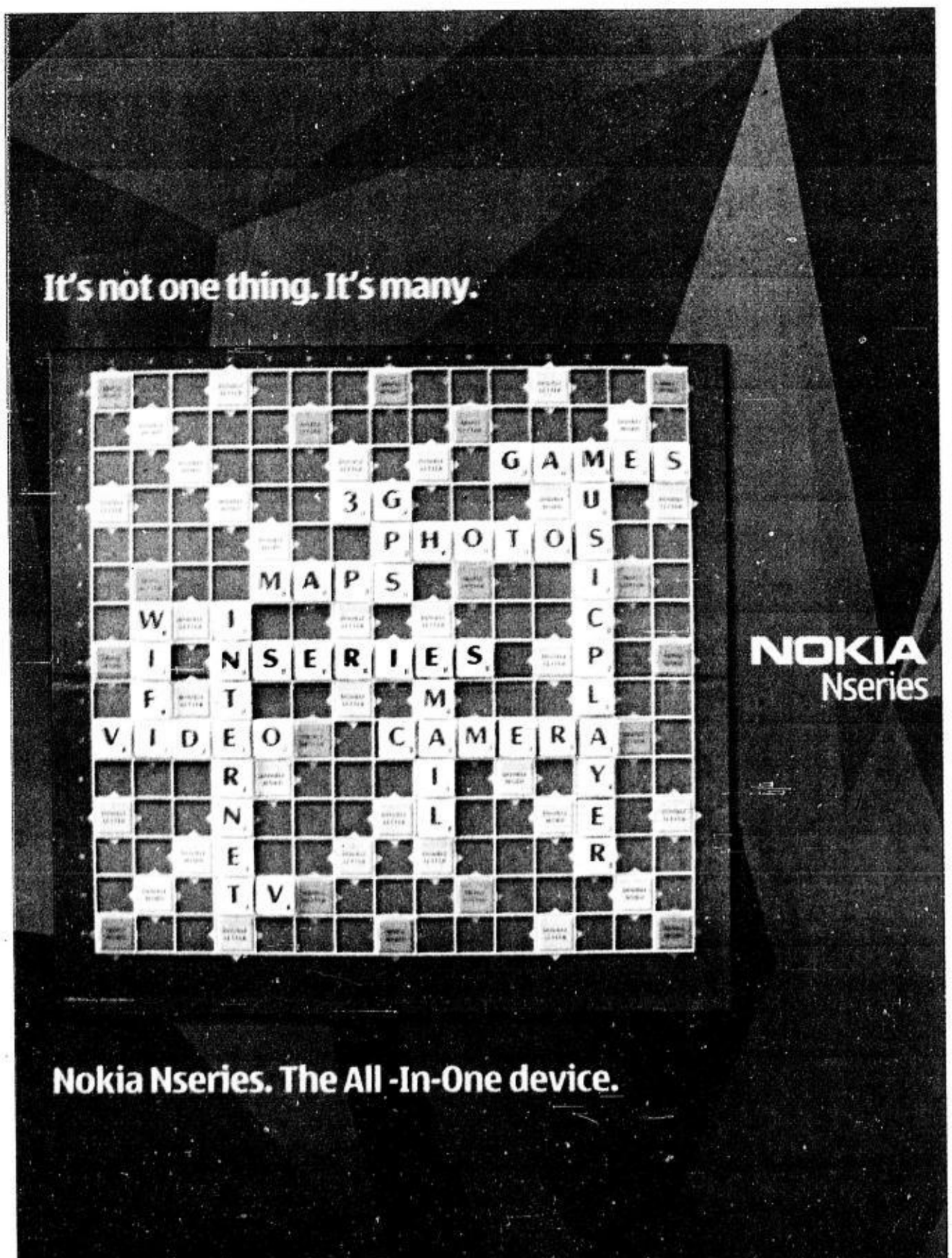
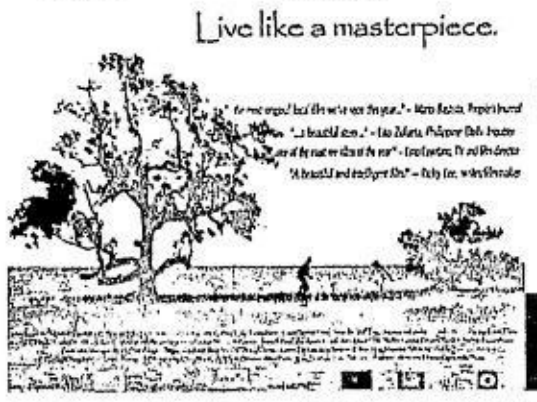


Glaiza de Castro
introducing Ron Capinding
a film by Katski Flores
Still Life
Live like a masterpiece.

a film by Katski Flores

STILL LIFE is the story of James Masino, a gifted Filipino painter who finds out he is afflicted with a paralyzing disease known as Guillain Barre Syndrome. Faced with a future where he can no longer paint, James leaves his life in the city and goes on a self-imposed exile to paint one last time, one final masterpiece. Unable to imagine a life without his art, he plans to kill himself once he finishes this painting. But Fate intervenes and derails this grand scheme when James learns that he must share this exile with Emma, a beautiful and mysterious young girl who at 19 has lived a life much too old for her years. But it is her courageous and unfailing optimism despite what life has dealt her that ultimately inspires James to realize a life beyond his canvass. Her search for meaning propels his journey towards hope and redemption.

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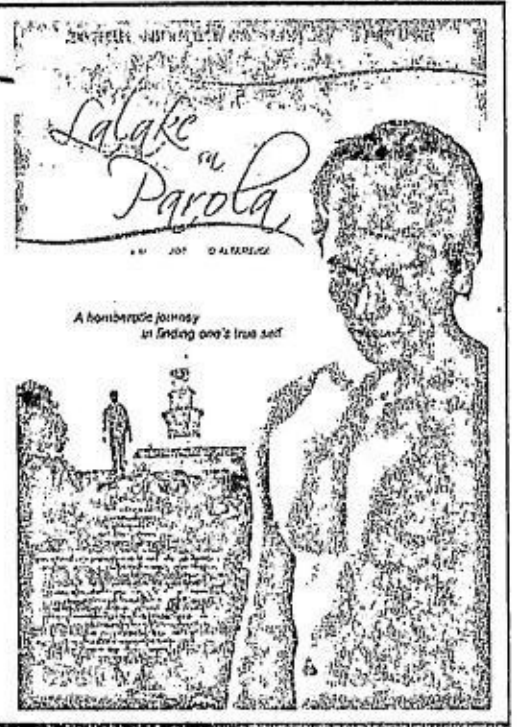
ERMITA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?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Kapuso's K connect

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE GMA ARTIST CENTER (GMAAC) has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Korean Model Association (KMA), the biggest modeling agency in South Korea.

The agreement, explains GMAAC head Ida Henares, makes KMA "the exclusive agent of [Kapuso] artists in the area of commercial endorsements and modeling in Korea."

Henares says the KMA has invited the Philippines to participate in the Grand Korea Festival Awards, set in January 2008.

"It's the Oscars of their fashion industry," Henares tells the INQUIRER.

Nine countries are participating this year. Says Henares: "Each country will be showcased in a fashion show. Show biz celebs, government dignitaries, fashion industry insiders and corporate leaders will attend the festival and awards night."

Henares recently visited Korea, where she met with KMA officials, including its president Yang Eu-Sig.

In Korea, Henares was joined by GMAAC's newest Korean talent, Grace Lee, a segment host on the QTV lifestyle show "The Sweet Life."

Big opportunities

According to Lee, Andy Kim, a family friend, was instrumental in hooking up GMAAC with KMA.

"This could lead to bigger opportunities," says Lee of the MOU. "A lot of Koreanovela stars started out as models. Hopefully, Filipinos would also get noticed there. Korea's entertainment market is very big."

She hopes that this tie-up would lead to Korean-Filipino co-productions.

"My Uncle Andy is definitely working on that. I hope to be part of that, too," says Lee.

"But first, Filipino stars must first master the Korean language," Henares points out.

An example is set by Lee, a Korean national who speaks Filipino fluently and graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the Ateneo de Manila University.

"My family moved here in 1992, when I was 10 years old," Lee recalls.

She agrees that she presents a different face of Korea for Filipinos who've grown accustomed to ABS-CBN teen star Sandara Park.

GMA ... teams ... bigges... agenc... with t... its nev...

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Lee is th... local TV a... hosts the ... Oh."

"Sam i... haven't m... me feel p... big here. ... slump, I h... soon. I thi... to be deter...

Like Lee ...

GRACE Le...

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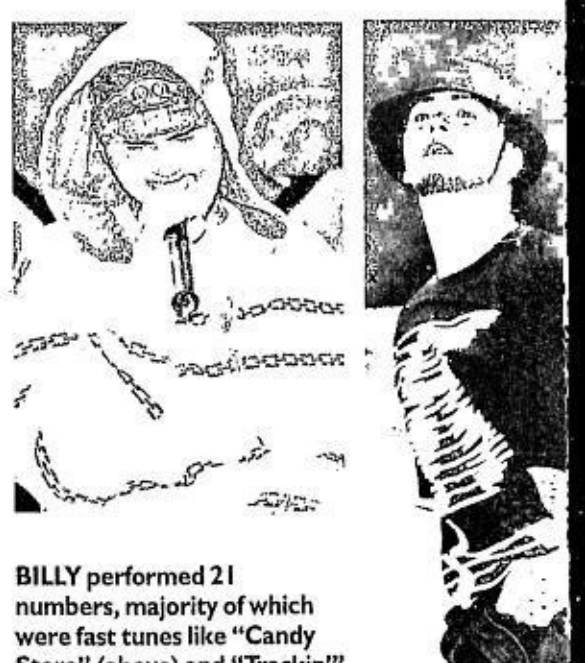
Man ...



BILLY performed 21 numbers, majority of which were fast tunes like "Candy Store" (above) and "Trackin'" (right).

'Comedy's not ...

For the 12th anniversary special of "Bubble" (to be aired on the last two Fridays of October), Uro, the cast and crew brainstormed and decided to mount "something we haven't done before."

Thus, "Bubble Gang the Movie for TV" was bo... "The ... narrativ... to five ... For the ... episode ...

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INMENT

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Artist Center
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), Yoon Se-Ah ("Lovers in
im Rae Won ("Attic Cat"),
g Ho ("I'm Sorry, I Love
singer Mina ("Answer the

rviews will be aired on
Life" starting today (Oct.

third Korean to make it in
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pe she'll stage a comeback
k she can do it. She seems
nined girl."

spéaks fluent Filipino.

WACKY quartet: Candy Pangilinan, Pokwang, Rufa Mae Quinto and Eugene Domingo

Morbid curiosity

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THE ONLY WAY TO TRULY APPRECIATE "Apat Dapat, Dapat Apat: Friends for Lyf and Death" is to have no expectations whatsoever. If you saw the poster, you probably cringed at the thought of another movie inspired by "Weekend at Bernie's."

But the most jaded Pinoy comedy viewer may find a few things to enjoy here, even when hilarity is occasionally sparse on account of the overstretched joke. For example, one can go only so far with a group of friends pretending that one of them is still alive, inanely dragging her corpse outdoors to maintain the illusion.

Standard material

Overall, the humor is standard gag show and sitcom material. Some of the punch lines are innately Filipino, such as language barriers—Rufa Mae Quinto's character Brite tries to communicate with a foreigner in skewered English slang.

When all else fails, "Apat Dapat" goes with some time-tested techniques. Yes, physical humor and gross jokes still work. The movie is über-campy, so it gets a little creative, if not necessarily smarter, when the characters are given free rein to go over the top. What passes for reality gets bent a lot, excusing some major story and logic lapses.

So yes, four gal pals, Brite (Quinto), Dolly (Eugene Domingo), Gay (Pokwang) and Res (Candy Pangilinan) survive all kinds of trouble, bound by true friendship over time ... or so the blue screen-accompanied scenes tell us. Superimposed imagery and visual enhancement tend to glaze and gloss the wackiness every now and then.

The self-proclaimed "*mga tunay na Diyosa ng kagandahan*," are a busy bunch: Gay is a dancing, leap-frogging traffic enforcer; Dolly is an impassioned music teacher; Brite is a bubbly mortician. But the busiest is Res, who's virtually her lazy and overly dependent family's maid. She doesn't mind, because they politely say "please" and "thank you." Anyway, the four quit their jobs to try their luck as domestic helpers in Hong Kong. Hodge-podge comedy ensues.

Soon, Res is maltreated, starved and beaten up by her employers, and eventually ends up dead. Threatened by the supposedly well-connected culprits, the remaining friends flee with Res' body, unable to muster enough courage to report the crime. The women do their best to make the corpse look alive, "animating" her until they come up with a more lasting solution to their woes.

The smaller moments, however inconsequential or perfunctory, are sometimes funnier. Dolly's blues with her stuntman husband (Christian Vasquez), and Gay's family foibles are some of the relatively smoother parts.

Time sharing

The four comediennes share the chores almost equally, although Pangilinan is both spooky and amazing as the deceased "puppet."

They do what they can with the material, which seems very loosely structured, as if it's being made up as they go along. But "Apat Dapat" is the type of comedy that's both a shallow time-killer and an acquired taste that some people may find escapist, unfunny jokes notwithstanding.

Controversy is my twin sister

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

IT WAS SUCH A DELIGHT TO BE A GUEST on "Boy & Kris" along with DJ Mo and Ethel Booba. The episode titled *"Mga Malalapitin ng Intriga,"* airs Oct. 19 on ABS-CBN.

As I said on the show, controversy is my twin sister. I asked Mo which celeb he wouldn't save if they were on a sinking ship. He chose Drew Arellano. According to him, he's "envious" of Drew. He feels that if Drew were not around, there would be more breaks for him. But of course this reply was all in the spirit of fun.

Ethel made a shocking revelation about her ex Alex Crisano and sis Bobita. She insists that there's something going on between them. Boy and Kris knew exactly how to draw out the best answers from us. Their teamwork is impeccable!

New date

Aiko Melendez was spotted in Eastwood with Bulacan Vice Mayor Pat Meneses and other friends. Was it a friendly group date, or has Aiko found a replacement for Martin Jickain? Were Councilor Aiko and VM Pat talking politics ... of love?

Lea's blog

Here's the latest from Lea Salonga's blog (http://bigsis222.multiply.com) which she allowed me t print. Let's hope things be resolved over there soon. The show must go on!

Will It Go Dark On Broadway? (Oct. 10, '07)

Before I continue, here are some links... they are of considerable concern for all those working on Broadway, and the audiences on their way in to see shows:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/10/nyregion/10bway.html?ref=arts

http://www.playbill.com/news/article/111755.html

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a0tX1DI__4mA

http://www.variety.com/article/VR1117973753.html?categoryid=15&cs=1

Needless to say, I'm worried.

Last night, I arrived at the theater not knowing if we were going to perform or not, and the last bit of news I heard was that it was very possible that a lockout could take place, effectively shutting out everyone responsible for putting on a show every night: cast, musicians, wardrobe people and the stagehands. The stagehands are members of IATSE Local 1, and are currently in contract negotiations with the League of American Theaters and Producers.

At the moment we're going day to day ... we don't know if we're going to have a performance today ... we don't know if we're going to be allowed in the theater or not. We don't know what the rest of the week will hold if a lockout takes place. I had to take home my more important personal items from my dressing room, just in case.

Keep your fingers crossed that the curtains rise on all the Broadway shows that fall under the League. No one wants to see Broadway go dark.

Update (Oct. 12)

No lockout this weekend.

http://www.playbill.com/news/article/111865.html

No. 1 AM station

Radio Mindanao Network (RMN), Visayas and Mindanao's undisputed number 1 network of AM radio stations, reaffirms its stronghold in these regions. Based on the latest Geovisual Solutions survey (www.radioview.net), 11 of their stations in Mindanao and six of them in the Visayas are all hailed No. 1 in their respective areas.

Ears to the Canoy brothers—the bright boys behind RMN.

Personal

It's been quite a roller coaster ride for me since 2007 began because of all the controversies this column has generated. So for my birthday, I rewarded myself with a much-needed vacation in Hong Kong with my kids and sister.

Muchas gracias to Cebu Pacific's Romulo Orense and Jeannette Reyes for their kind assistance. Endless thanks to my *palangga* of all time, Maurice Arcache, for facilitating my accommodations. *Xie Xie* to the charming Marketing Communications Manager of Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, Gladis Young and the dashing GM Gordon Fuller, for the red carpet treatment.

Some of the celebs who have stayed in the swanky hotel are Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis, Avril Lavigne, Jose Carreras and Mariah Carey, to name a few. Jackie Chan celebrated his birthday this year at the hotel's poolside. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie dined recently at the hotel's classic Japanese resto Kaetsu.

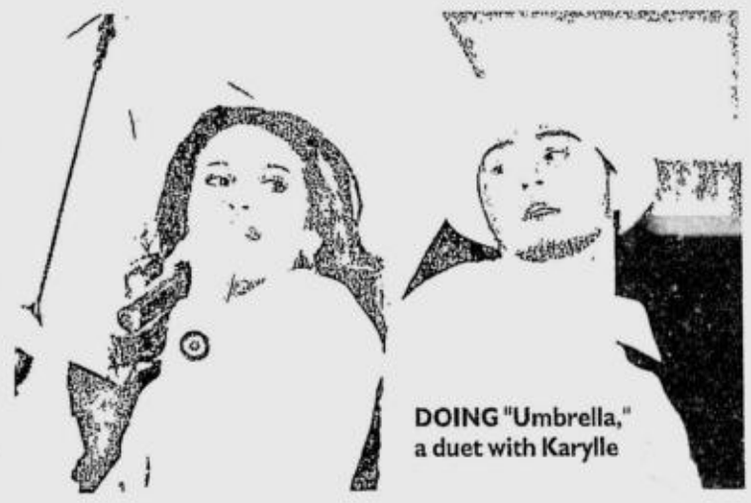
I wish I could have frozen time while I was there. Their Club Plateau offers an extensive range of aesthetic and relaxation treatments. What an indescribable oasis!

Next time you're in HK, check out the fab hotel with magnificent views of the harbor (www.hongkong.grand.hyatt.com). It's a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of Nathan Road. And, who knows, you might bump into some Hollywood celeb in the hotel.

I felt like royalty during my stay there. Now that I'm back to reality, wonderful memories of my Grand Hyatt experience keep my sanity intact as I go through the show biz carnival again.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

yrit, JM Vergara, Mich Garong and Darcy Godoy,



DOING "Umbrella," a duet with Karylle

with the moves

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos courtesy of GMA 7

BILLY CRAWFORD'S HUGEly successful concert at the Big Dome on Saturday has raised the bar for future local productions.

There was a detectable foreign flavor in Billy's dance moves that would remind the closest observer of American entertainer Justin Timberlake.

The similarity is not coincidental. Billy and Justin have the same choreographer—French-American Maryss, who also works with Gwen Stefani, Missy Eliot and Black Eyed Peas.

At the Big Dome concert, titled "It's Time," Billy performed a total of 21 numbers, majority of which were fast tunes. Highlight of the show was a medley of songs by Earth, Wind and Fire, Michael Jackson and Ne-Yo (with Kris Lawrence). The crowd rose and danced till the end of the medley.

Billy also performed with Jay-R ("She's Mine") and Karylle ("Umbrella"). He was backed up by a six-member dance team—comprised of Daniel Agbisit, Sizzle Moneva, Jobel Dayrit, JM Vergara, Mich Garong, Darcy Godoy and AJ Sarate—winners of the reality dance contest, "Move." French concert director Bambi Cruz was at the helm.

PROUD parents Jack and Marietta

RUSTOM Padilla, Yasmien Kurdi and Rufa Mae Quinto turned up to watch their friend.

lead, just fatigued'

From page F1

hallenge is to sustain a two-hour . On the show, we usually do one-minute gags, skits and sketches. two anniversary shows, each uns an hour or so," he says.

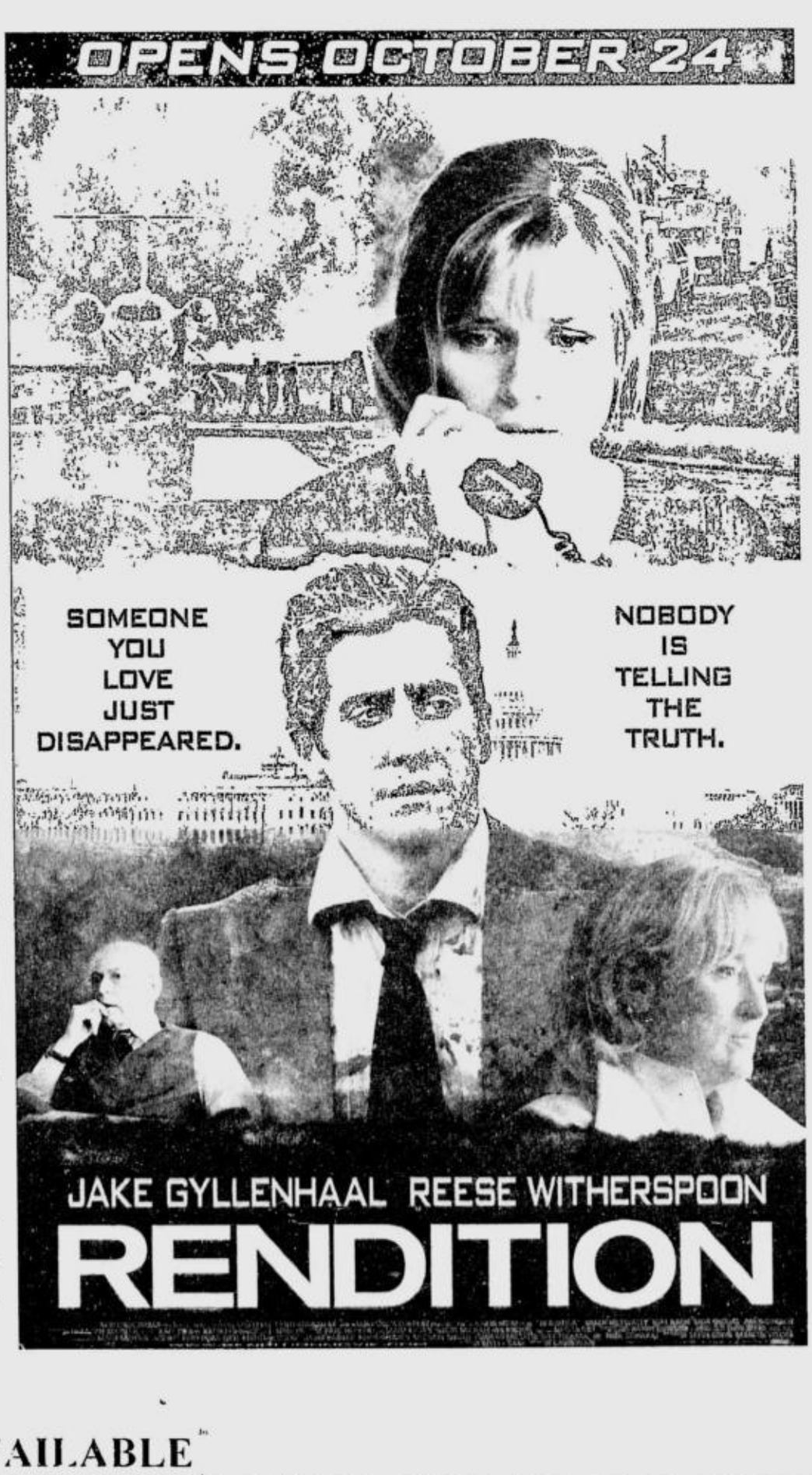
Uro shot all over Quezon City and Manila.

"We had to stop in the week of the Erap promulgation [Joseph Estrada verdict from the Sandiganbayan] because of the gun ban," says lead star Michael V.

"It's because we have gun fight scenes. It's an action-musical!"

"We used HD cameras and shot for four days," co-star Rufa Mae Quinto adds.

"We really treated it as if it's a movie," says Uro.



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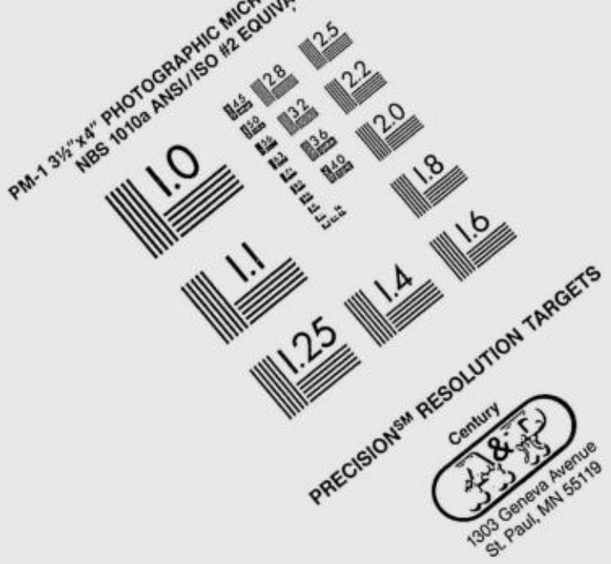
Like the little black dress, can Lite Rock ever go out of style?

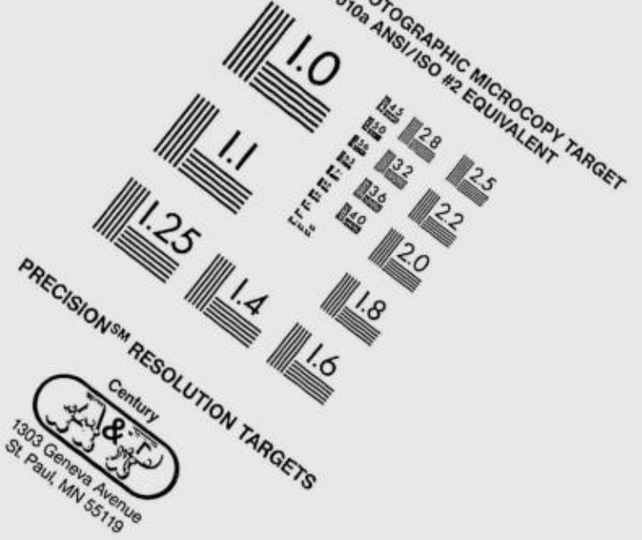
Three of a Kind
Eagles
Saturday Lite
Wonderful
Dance Singer
Graduate
Three of a Kind
Celebrity Minutes

Through 19 years of Lite Rock,
thank you for keeping us in style.

96.3 LITE WROCK

The Heart of Lite Rock





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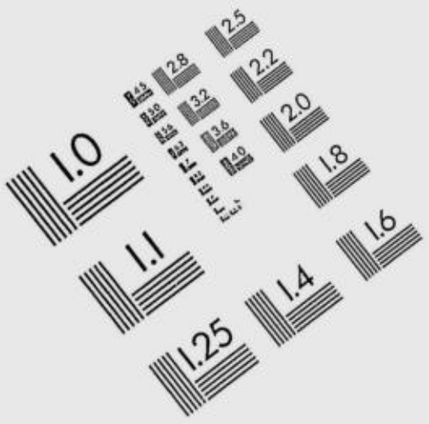

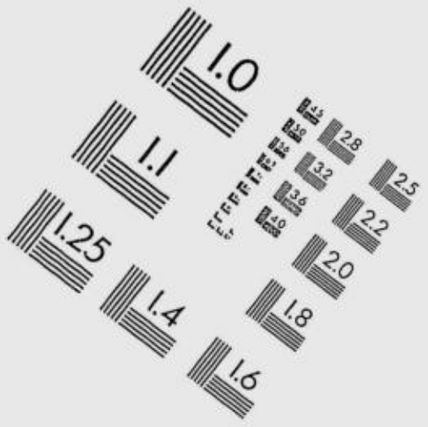

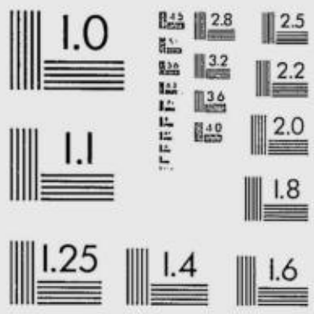

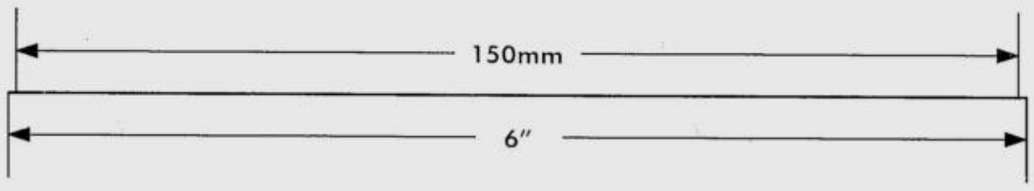

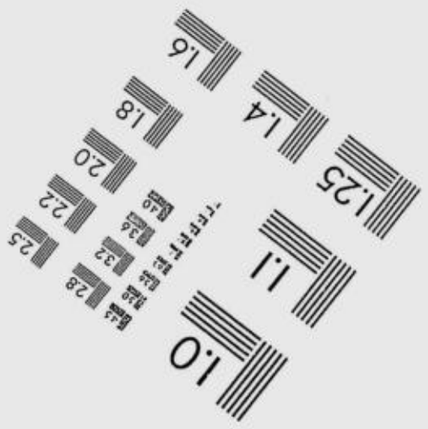

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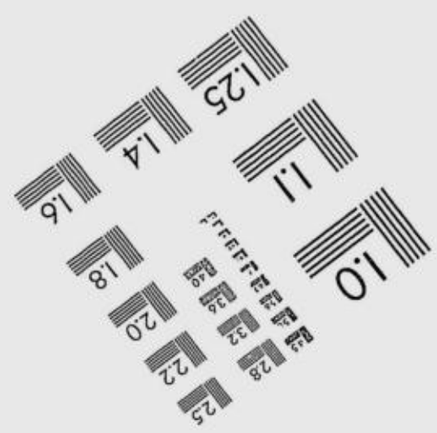

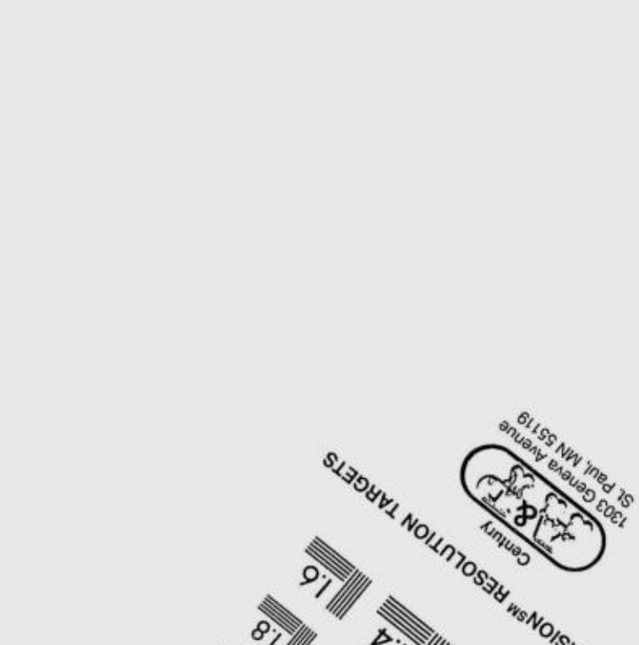

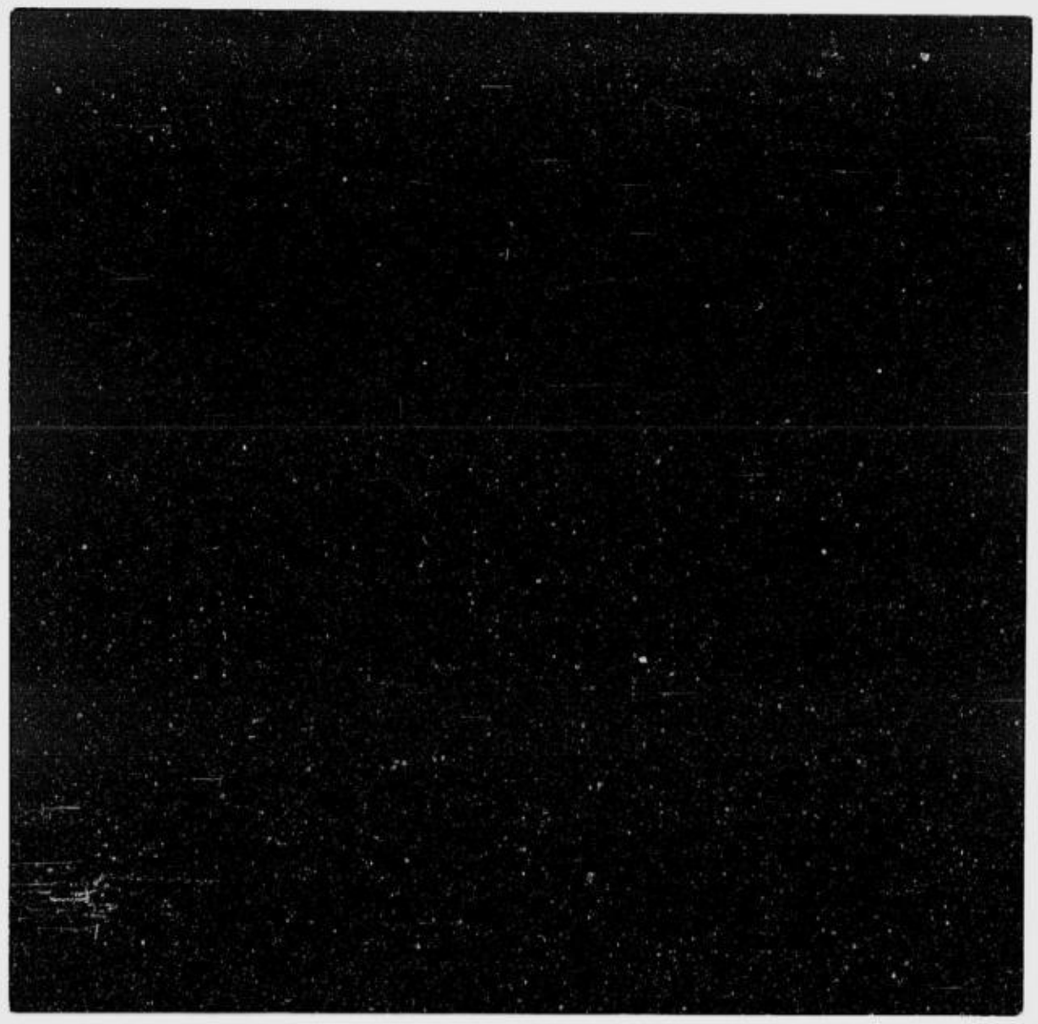

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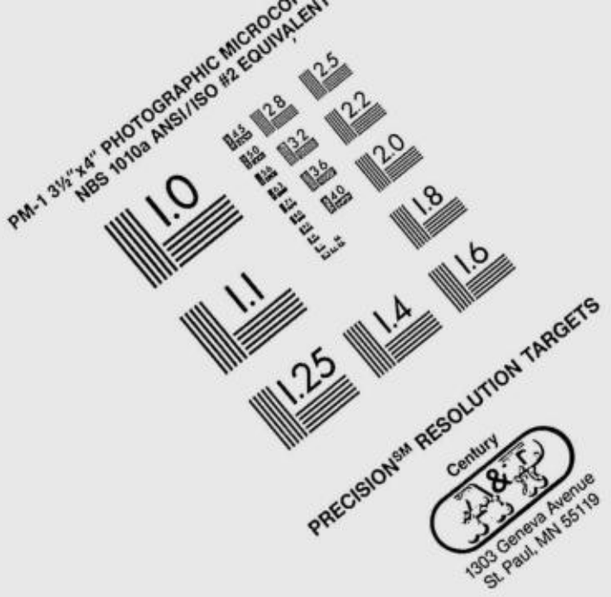

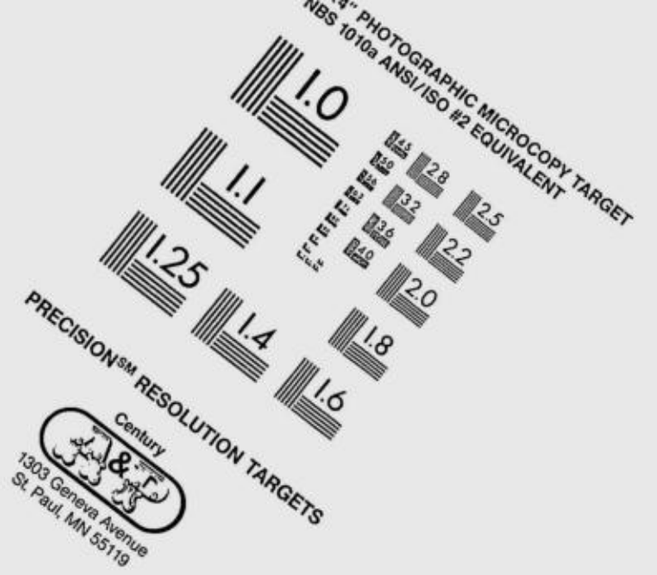

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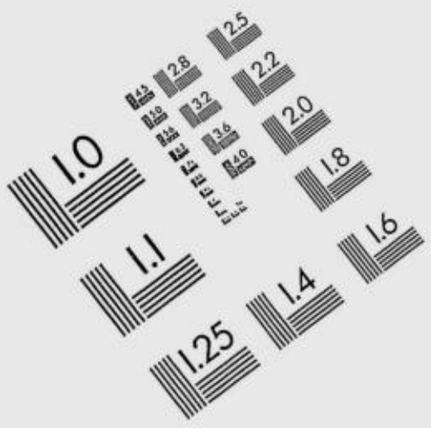

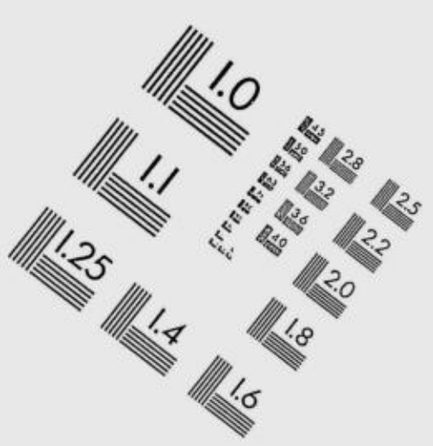

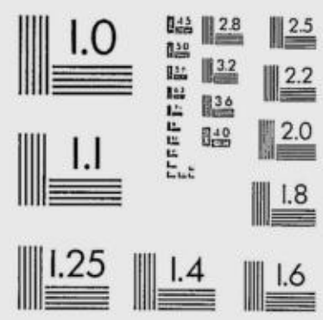

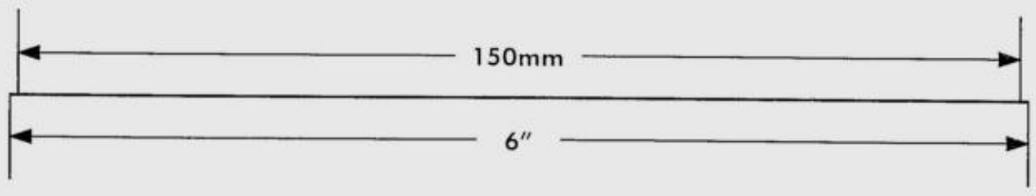

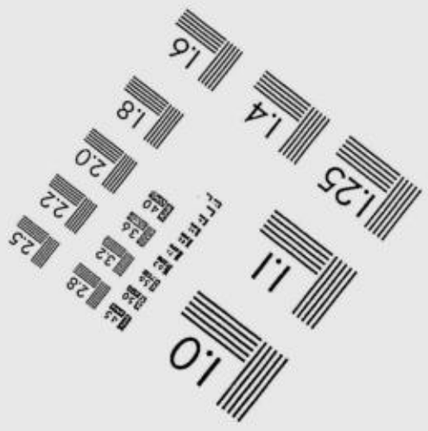

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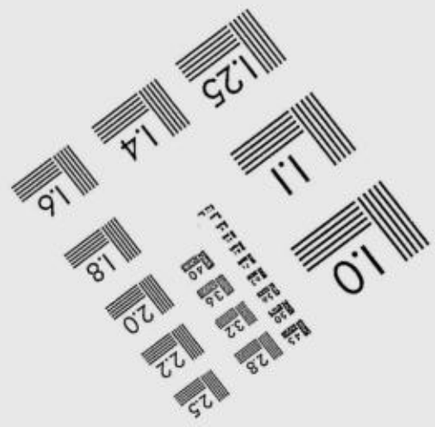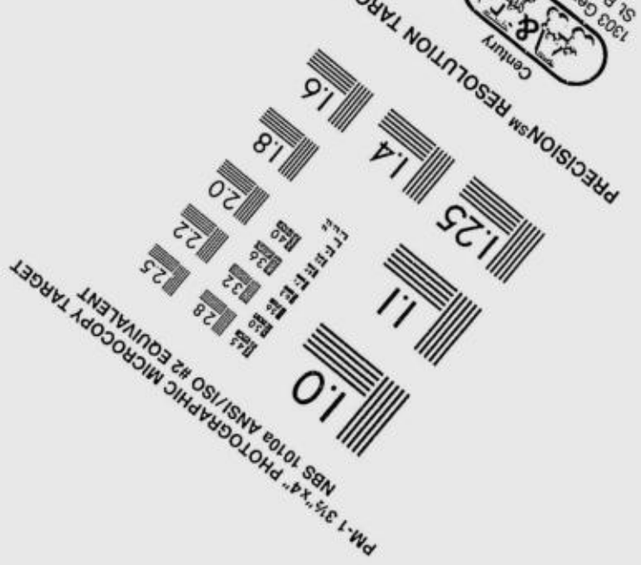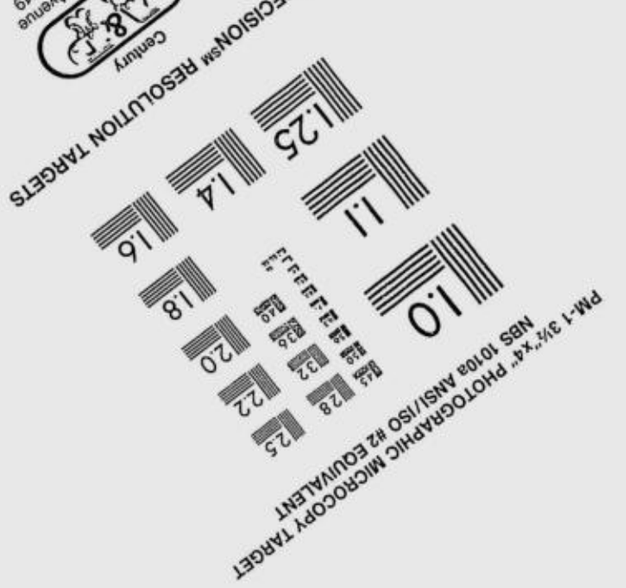
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